

# NATURAL FIBRES

The performance of any carpet depends on three factors. The raw materials, the amount used and the care that is taken in the manufacture. There are two main categories of pile fibre, natural and man-made.

The most widely used natural fibre is wool, either in 100% form or more frequently blended with nylon or other man-made fibres. Wool is the classic carpet fibre. It is resilient, warm, comfortable, fire retardant and, in the right pile density, will give excellent service.

The two main sources of superior carpet wools are New Zealand and the UK. New Zealand wool is long and lustrous and is selected for clear pale shades. British wool tends to be shorter and is used in many mid-colours and patterned carpets. The most popular woolrich blend is 80% wool and 20% nylon although wool is also used with polypropylene to keep prices more competitive.

Other natural fibres include seagrass, coir and sisal, all of which are enjoying a fashion revival. Mainly available in the natural look, especially in loop pile textures, they are hardwearing and reasonably inexpensive. Generally, the quality of these vegetable based fibres depends on climatic and growing conditions. The best sisal originates in Tanzania, although the spinning and manufacture into floocovering, is undertaken in Europe to recognised standards. (ISO 9001) Beware of allowing vegetable fibres to become too wet and always ensure that they are layed professionally.



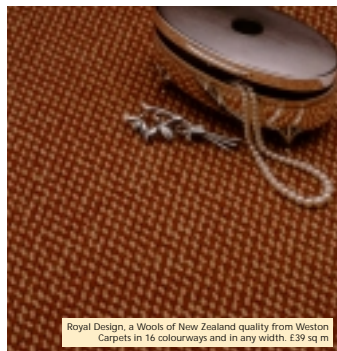
Sisal from The Alternative Flooring Company, who also supply coir, seagrass, jute and all wool. Prices range from £10.00/sq m to £23.50/sq m. There is a custom-made rug service for bespoke rugs. A special stain protector can be applied to the above flooring.



Lyander twist pile by Brockway Carpets in 14 natural shades. Made with a blend of 80% British wool, 10% Nylon and 10% melt-bond polyester. £25.99/sq m



Tamar axminster Turkey design in Holly Green. 100% British wool by Axminster Carpets of Devon. £48.25/sq m



Royal Design, a Wools of New Zealand quality from Weston Carpets in 16 colourways and in any width. £39/sq m



Kassala from Woodward Grosvenor's Desert Spice collection, Mace colourway. Inspired by sisal and seagrass products, Desert Spice is a Wools of New Zealand quality made with 100% wool and retails at around £30.49/sq m. For a brochure and details of your nearest retailer, please call 01562 513513.

