

SUN NEW HOMES & CONDOS

Lots of ways to treat your feet when using carpeting



JULIE MCNICOL
BEFORE AND AFTER

Choosing broadloom carpet can seem overwhelming and it can feel like you are making a big commitment. Here's how to pick something that works for your lifestyle and won't date itself too quickly.

The first thing to think about is the wear and tear it will undergo. Are you placing it in a high traffic area? Family room? Kids' bedroom?

If so, you will want to consider something that is nylon, polypropylene or a blend (nylon/wool). These will be the most forgiving with stains and the most durable against pilling and pulls.

The individual fibers in these materials are stronger than those in pure wool or linen carpets. I also suggest nylon for stair runners in high traffic homes.

If you are looking for broadloom for a guest bedroom or other space that gets light use, wool is a nice choice. It is generally softer under foot than nylon and the colour choices tend to be better.

Once you know what material you want, think about the style of carpet. This not only refers to choosing a pattern versus a plain carpet but also the type of pile.

A loop pile carpet is where the woven strands of carpet are left uncut (Berber is an example of this). It feels more



A loop pile carpet is where the woven strands of carpet are left uncut and it feels more firm and dense.

firm and dense than a cut pile, which is when the carpet strands are cut at the tips, making it softer and loose to the touch.

In terms of colour, select something that blends in with the colour of your room. You are less likely to want to replace something that matches your general decor than you are with some-

thing bright coloured and in a trendy pattern. The most long-lasting styles for carpets are plain or simple patterns like a subtle, tone-on-tone stripe or a carpet that has both a cut and loop pile that make a simple pattern.

In the past, nylon carpets were known for being rough and scratchy to touch making them less desirable for residential use. However, there are now some great, new options on the market that are made of a Tencel fiber that is soft to the touch. They even come in cut pile styles which were previously not common in nylon material.

Finally, think about the size of your room with the size of the carpet to determine where the seams will go. While most broadloom seams well, there are some styles that emphasize the seam.

Most broadloom carpets come on the roll in a twelve-foot width. If your room is less than twelve feet you won't have to worry about seams. However, if your room is larger than the width of your carpet in both directions, try to plan for the seam to be under a piece of large furniture or in an inconspicuous place.

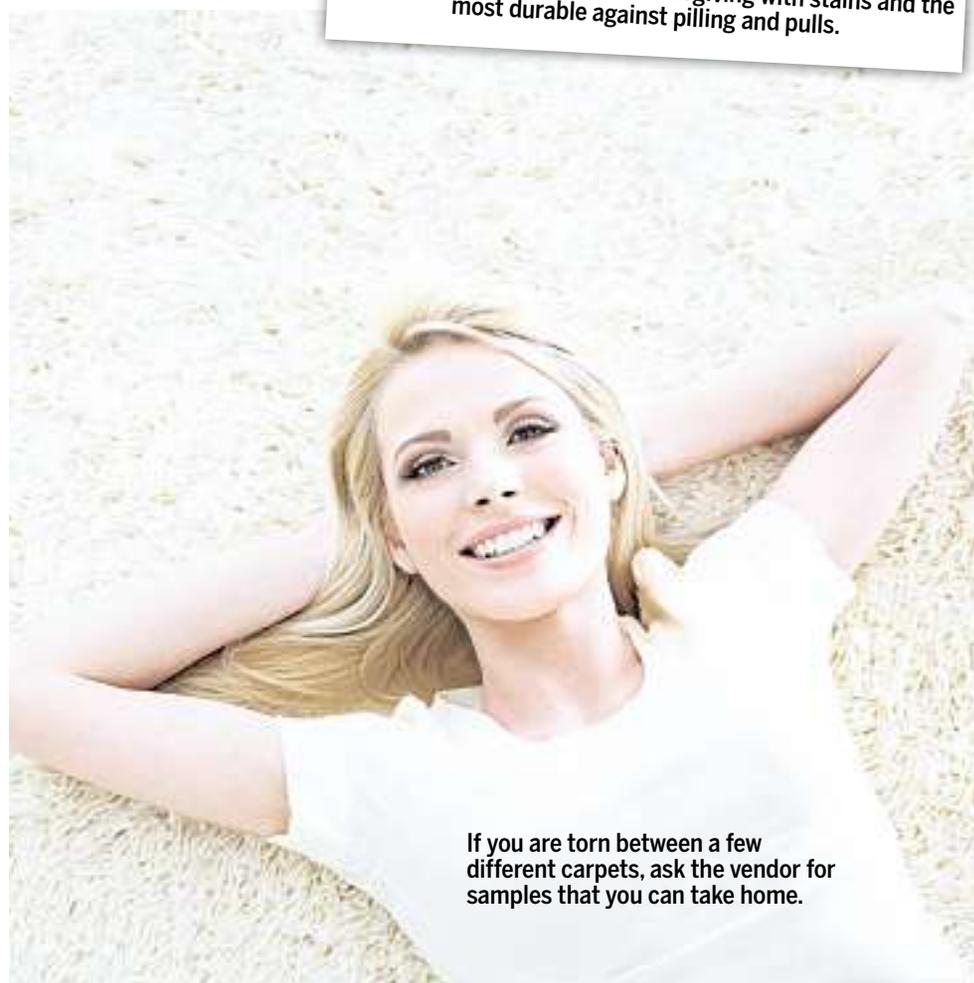
If you are torn between a few different carpets, ask the

vendor for samples that you can take home. Take your time to review the samples with your home décor. One of the samples will jump out at you as the right choice.

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