



Milliken Carpet

5 EASY STEPS

to Specify Carpet

Using New
Appearance Retention
Specifications for
GSA Contracts and
Federal Procurements

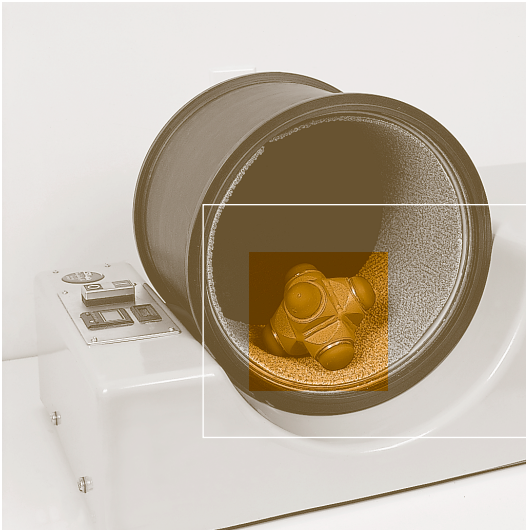
The federal government is adopting new carpet specifications.

New commercial carpet specifications have been developed for the General Services Administration contract and other federal procurements. The guidelines were developed by a committee including the United States Air Force, Army Corps, Navy, Veterans Affairs, General Services Administration, carpet manufacturers and The Carpet & Rug Institute, the professional organization representing the carpet industry.

The new criteria are based on simulated wear tests that provide an index for appearance retention. Each carpet will carry an appearance retention rating or ARR that gives specifiers a better indication of whether this product will perform well in a specific end-use application under the typical traffic level for that application.

Milliken's carpets are rated under the new guidelines.

Milliken Carpet participated in the team of carpet industry representatives that helped develop the new guidelines. All Milliken carpets have been tested and rated. To conduct the tests, carpets are placed in the approved testing device, a hexapod. This equipment simulates foot traffic by turning the carpet for hundreds of cycles while a weight tumbles randomly onto the carpet surface. The carpet is then compared to carpet standards provided by The Carpet & Rug Institute and assigned the appearance retention rating or ARR of the matching standard.



Carpets are wear-tested in a hexapod machine that spins around hundreds of times while a six-sided weight tumbles onto the carpet surface.

5 EASY STEPS

to Better Performing Carpet

The new appearance retention ratings will help you determine which carpets are likely to perform well in your specific installation. Other performance factors that should be considered when specifying carpet are: design, color, type of backing, use of entry systems and maintenance. The following five-step program provides an easy-to-use guide for specifying carpet.

1

Step 1 Identify Classification and Appearance Retention Rating

The various types of carpet installations are listed on the *End-Use Classification Chart* (see far right). Identify your end-use application and note its classification as a moderate, heavy or severe environment for carpet use. Once you have identified the classification, note the minimum appearance retention rating or ARR, which is reflected as a point range on the chart below:

Classification	ARR
Moderate	2.5 to 3.0
Heavy	3.0 to 3.5
Severe	3.5 to 4.0

Each Milliken carpet carries an ARR that can be found on the carpet label and in the product catalog. Any Milliken carpet with an ARR within your point range or higher has been deemed appropriate for your end-use application.

2

Step 2 Select Design

Carpet design plays a key role in disguising stains and wear patterns. A Milliken representative can help you determine the best type of design for your application. If you expect a high traffic level, select a pattern that works to camouflage stains.

Design	Stain-Masking
Random Pattern	Excellent
Regular Pattern	Good
Tweed	Marginal
Solid	Poor

3

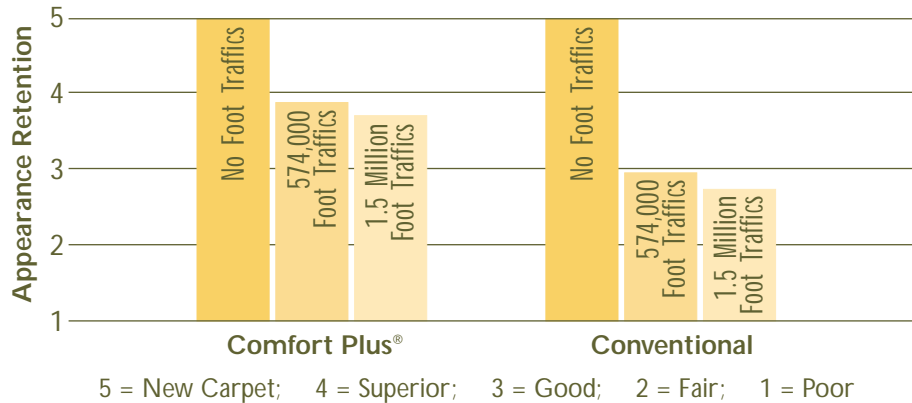
Step 3 Determine Color

Dark colors might appear to be the best choice for hiding soil. However, dark carpets offer sharp contrasts, so lint, dust and light-colored stains show up more easily. Conversely, light carpets readily show dark spots and stains. The optimum selections are color values that fall into the medium range. These colors offer little contrast to accumulated soil and do the best job of concealing stains.

Step 4

Specify Backing

Industry tests prove that cushion-backed carpets increase comfort and performance. The cushion absorbs the impact of foot traffic, allowing the carpet fiber to look better and last longer. The chart below shows how modular carpet with Milliken's Comfort Plus® PVC-free cushion backing outperforms carpet with conventional hard backing. EverWher®, a PVC-free hard backing, is also available on Milliken's modular carpet. For broadloom, Milliken recommends using an attached cushion.



Step 5

Plan Entry Systems and Maintenance

A plan that includes entry systems and consistent maintenance will enhance the appearance and longevity of your carpet. Entry systems have the added benefit of preventing slips-and-falls. Milliken offers First Appearances™, a three-step entry system that uses mats and brushing carpets to trap 90 percent of tracked-in dirt and moisture. For maintenance, Milliken recommends MilliCare® Environmental Services™, a dry cleaning program that also enhances indoor air quality.

Entry System	Carpet Performance
Multi-step program	Excellent
Entry Mats	Good
Hard Surface	Poor
Maintenance	Carpet Performance
Preventive cleaning	Excellent
Spot cleaning	Excellent
Clean as needed	Poor

End-Use Classification Chart *for use with Step 1*

End-Use Application	Minimum Use Classification
BANKS/CREDIT UNIONS	
Entrances and customer banking space	Severe
Open office space, private offices	Heavy
BOWLING ALLEYS	
Concourses (excluding food service, working and storage areas)	Severe
CHAPELS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS FACILITIES	
Educational wing, worship areas	Heavy
CHILD CARE CENTERS	
All areas	Severe
CLUBS	
All areas	Severe
HOUSING	
<i>Single Family</i>	
Family rooms, living rooms, dining rooms	Heavy
Sleeping rooms	Moderate
Combination living/sleeping rooms	Heavy
<i>Multi-Family</i>	
Common areas (lobbies, lounges)	Severe
Corridors	Severe
Family rooms, living rooms, dining rooms	Heavy
Multi-purpose areas	Severe
Sleeping rooms	Moderate
Combination living/sleeping rooms	Heavy
LABORATORY/RESEARCH FACILITIES	
Computer work areas	Severe
Closed private office	Heavy
Open work areas, dry labs	Severe
LIBRARIES	
Conference rooms, corridors	Severe
LODGING FACILITIES/DORMITORIES	
Conference rooms	Severe
Combination living/sleeping rooms	Severe
Dining facilities	Severe
Offices	Heavy
Public areas (lobbies, lounges, TV rooms, day rooms)	Severe
Sleeping rooms	Heavy
MEDICAL FACILITIES (excluding patient treatment areas)	
Assisted living areas, classrooms	Heavy
Chapels, consultation rooms	Moderate
Clinical waiting areas (outpatient, pharmacy, ancillary zone only)	Severe
Corridors, dining areas, elevators	Severe
Entrance areas (entry mats should be used)	Severe
Libraries	Moderate
Lobbies	Severe

End-Use Application	Minimum Use Classification
MEDICAL FACILITIES (cont.)	
Lounges	Heavy
Offices (private, semi-private)	Severe
Patient rooms	Heavy
Playrooms (OB/GYN, Pediatric clinics)	Severe
Staff sleeping and watch areas	Moderate
MILITARY HOUSING	
<i>Family Housing</i>	
Flag	Moderate
Single unit	Heavy
Multi-unit (corridors, sleeping/living rooms)	Heavy
Multi-unit (public areas, lobbies, lounges)	Severe
<i>Bachelor Officer Quarters</i>	
Sleeping/living rooms	Moderate
Public areas (lobbies, lounges)	Severe
Dining facilities	Severe
Offices	Moderate
<i>Bachelor Enlisted Quarters</i>	
Sleeping/living rooms	Severe
Public areas (lobbies, lounges)	Severe
Dining facilities	Severe
Offices	Heavy
MUSIC OR DRAMA CENTERS	
All areas	Severe
OFFICES (including administrative areas)	
Closed private offices	Heavy
Corridors	Severe
Conference rooms	Heavy
Open plan office (circulation areas)	Severe
Open plan office (work areas)	Heavy
RESTAURANTS (excluding work spaces)	
Dining areas	Severe
Cafeteria-type dining areas, enlisted canteens	Severe
Office areas	Heavy
RETAIL STORES	
Offices	Heavy
Restaurant and cafeteria dining areas	Severe
Sales areas	Severe
THEATERS	
All areas	Severe
TRAINING BUILDINGS/EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (including dependents' schools)	
Classrooms, corridors	Severe
Staff/administration offices	Heavy
YOUTH CENTERS	
All areas	Severe

NOTE: These classifications are based on typical usage. Use a higher classification if traffic exposure is expected to be greater than usual. You may select a lower classification if traffic is projected to be lower than what is typical for that application.

Milliken Carpet offers modular and broadloom carpets, carpet cushion, maintenance services and carpet renewal through GSA Contract GS-27F-0502H.

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