

GLOSSARY

A

ACRYLIC - A manufactured fiber in which the fiber-forming substance is any long-chain synthetic polymer composed of at least 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units, only available as a staple. Spun yarns from acrylic exhibit aesthetics similar to wool.

ADHESIVE - A substance that dries to a film capable of holding materials together by surface attachment.

ANTIMICROBIAL CARPET - Carpet chemically treated to reduce the growth of common bacteria, fungi, yeast, mold and mildew.

ANTISTATIC - The ability of a carpet system to dissipate an electrostatic charge before it reaches the threshold of human sensitivity.

APPEARANCE RETENTION RATING - The ARR refers to the appearance change due to foot traffic (determined by simulated traffic testing, which may be Vetterman Drum, Hexapod, or Contract Walker Tests). The CRI appearance grading scales are often used to aid in the assessment of surface appearance change.

ATTACHED CUSHION - A cushioning material, such as foam, rubber, polyurethane, etc., permanently bonded to the backing fabric side of a carpet to provide additional dimensional stability, thickness and padding.

AVERAGE PILE YARN WEIGHT - Mass per unit area of the pile yarn, including buried portions of the pile yarn. In the U.S., it is usually expressed as ounces per square yard.

AXMINSTER CARPET - Carpet woven on an Axminster loom. Pile tufts are individually inserted from varied colored yarns arranged on spools, making possible complex patterns with many colors and patterns like Oriental design carpet and rugs.

B

BACKING - Materials (fabrics, yarns, or chemical compounds) in a carpet other than the pile yarns.

1. Primary back - In tufting, a woven or nonwoven fabric in which the pile yarn is inserted by the tufting needles. Usually, woven or nonwoven polypropylene for carpet, and often, cotton duck for scatter rugs.

2. Secondary back - Fabric laminated to the back of carpet to reinforce and increase dimensional stability. Usually woven jute or woven or nonwoven polypropylene.

3. Backings of woven carpet are the “construction yarns,” comprising chain warp, stuffer warp and shot or fill, which are interwoven with the face yarn during carpet fabric formation.

BALUSTER (Banister) - One of a set of small upright pillars or banisters that support a handrail (balustrade) on a stairway.

BCF - *See Bulked Continuous Filament*

BEAM - Large, horizontal cylinders or spools. Warp yarns are wound on beams and located on line in back of the weaving or tufting operation.

BECK DYEING - A batch or piece-dyeing method whereby grige carpet is dyed in a large vessel or tank containing a cylindrical reel to advance or rotate the carpet in the dye solution.

BERBER - A carpet constructed with thick yarns having randomly-spaced flecks of color against a background of a base color. This term currently refers to a variety of loop pile carpet styles.

BINDING - A band or strip sewn over a carpet edge to protect, strengthen, or decorate the edge.

BLEEDING - Transfer of fiber dyes from carpet or other fabrics by a liquid, usually water, with subsequent re-depositing on other fibers.

BLEND - A mixture of two or more fibers or yarns.

BOBBIN - A spool-like device made of various materials, shapes, and constructions, with a head at one or both ends and a hole through its length, or barrel, for placement on a spindle or skewer. It is used to hold yarn for spinning, weaving, or sewing.