



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

Roll Out the Green Carpet



In the United States alone, about 5 billion pounds of carpet are replaced in homes and businesses. That means that, especially when you add in the floor covering being installed into new construction, American corporations and consumers are buying lots of new carpeting all the time. There are lots of “green” carpet and flooring options available on the market now. These products are made with all or part post-consumer content, and are more durable and cost-effective than many of those made from virgin materials.

For example, the largest recycler in the flooring industry is Mohawk Carpet, which uses a total of 215 million pounds of recycled plastic water and soda bottles each year at its manufacturing plant in Summerville, GA. By recycling these bottles, the plant produces its “green” carpet, a product with a face (carpet strands) made from 100% post-consumer plastic bottles. Mohawk also uses about 30 million pounds of recycled tires (the equivalent of about 1.5 million car tires) each year to create door mats and backing for carpet tiles.

“Green” carpet products carry the same warranties for colorfastness, static control, resistance to stain, crushing and matting as other carpets made from virgin materials. In fact, recycled content carpet fiber is said to be more resilient and colorfast than its non-recycled content counterparts. By purchasing “green” carpet products, you can help save millions of gallons of water and crude oil, and keep hundreds of thousands of tons of plastic and rubber out of our landfills. Cost for recycled content carpeting is usually on par with or even less than virgin fiber carpeting. Most flooring companies have these and other “green” flooring options available – just ask!

