

Why Polyurethane Carpet Cushion?

The Benefits of Polyurethane Cushion in Commercial Installations



Specifier Resource

Alliance for Flexible Polyurethane Foam

Polyurethane carpet cushion is one of the best options for today's demanding commercial applications.

The ability of these cushion products to maintain high performance properties throughout the life of the carpet is one of their key advantages. Technology developments have yielded variations of the polyurethane polymer designed to meet the requirements of high traffic commercial installations. Studies have repeatedly shown that polyurethane provides outstanding durability, contributing to improved feel underfoot while protecting the carpet face and providing extended appearance retention.

Millions of installed yards and many years of successful performance establish a solid foundation for choosing polyurethane carpet cushion in your next floor covering purchase.

Polyurethane Carpet Cushion: Return-On-Investment

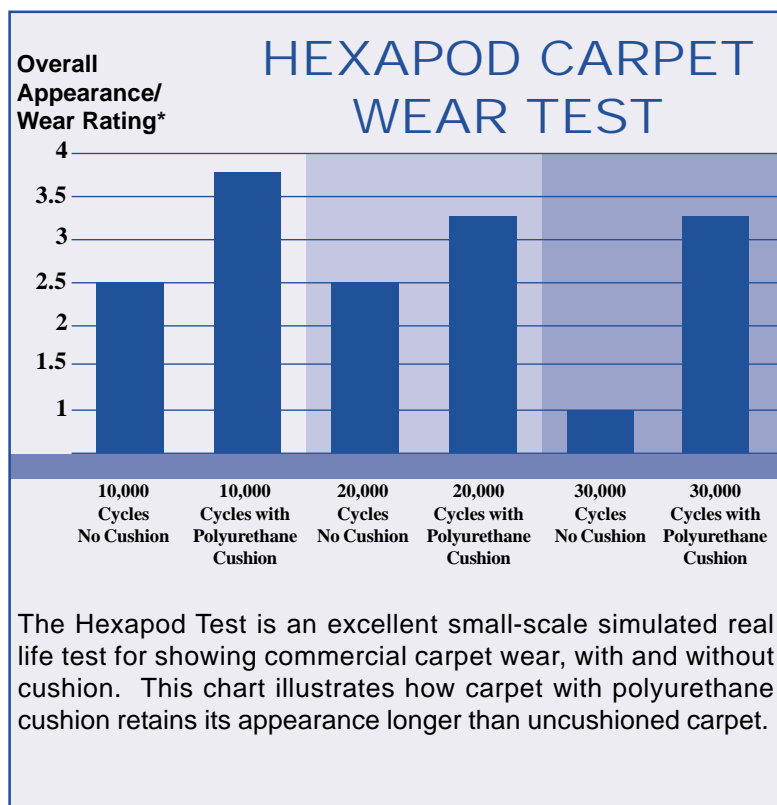
The accompanying table shows some of the many features and benefits realized through the use of commercial polyurethane cushion. From both an economic and a human perspective, the benefits reveal the value of using cushion. The life cycle extension of the carpet alone can often justify the upfront cost. Add the potential of higher productivity in the workplace through reduced noise distraction, less fatigue, and improved employee satisfaction -- and the compelling basis for including cushion in the carpet specification is unmistakable.

| Why Polyurethane? | |
|---|---|
| Cushion Features | Cushion Benefits |
| Improves Carpet Appearance Retention | Reduces Life Cycle Cost |
| Improves Acoustics | Less Noise Distraction Improves Productivity |
| Better Ergonomics More Comfort | Reduces Fatigue Raises Worker Satisfaction |
| Thermal Insulation | Environmental Comfort Reduces Cost |
| Easier to Clean | Carpet Looks Better Longer |
| Recycled Content By Definition & Recyclable In Many Localities | Consistent with Goal of Increased Recycling |

Direct Glue vs. Carpet Cushion

When specifying new carpet, it is important to understand how long the look and feel will last. With carpet that is glued directly to the floor, the only "cushioning" comes from the carpet face giving way underfoot. Few of us would consider installing carpet without cushion in our homes. Why not cushion in the workplace where the benefits are even greater?

The Hexapod test provides an excellent simulation of foot-traffic in heavily used corridors. As the chart shows, polyurethane carpet cushion makes a significant improvement in carpet appearance as compared to the same carpet installed in a direct-glue approach. Performing like millions of specially designed springs, the cushion is able to absorb much of the energy from traffic, protecting the carpet face while providing comfort underfoot.



*Key to Overall Appearance/Wear Ratings:

5 - New appearance / no change 4 - Slight change 3 - Moderate change
2 - Considerable change 1 - Severe change

Correctly specified carpet and cushion combine to create the optimum value in a floor covering system and proper installation is key to obtaining the best possible performance. By working with a qualified, well-trained installation professional, you can make an informed decision on the installation method and be assured of a quality installation.

Available in several forms, such as bonded/rebond and mechanically frothed -- attached, or as separate cushion -- commercial polyurethane carpet cushion represents one of the best options for specifier and end-user alike. There are even environmental benefits: in addition to the fact that polyurethane cushion is made from recycled materials and can be recycled in many localities, the potential extension of carpet life should mean less frequent replacements, resulting in less carpet going to landfill over the life of your facility.

For more information or a list of polyurethane cushion resources, contact us at 1.800.696.AFPF or visit the AFPF website at www.afpf.com