

Carpet Cushion Council

Choosing the Right Carpet Cushion Couldn't Be Easier

To make choosing the proper cushion simple, the Carpet Cushion Council has provided the following minimum recommendations for separate carpet cushion used in different traffic areas of the home. These recommendations have been adopted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under UM72a as its requirements for cushion used in FHA-financed housing.*

MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL APPLICATIONS

TYPE		KEY CHARACTERISTICS					
		CLASS 1			CLASS 2		
		weight oz/yd ² minimum	density lbs/ft ³ minimum	thickness Inch minimum	weight oz/yd ² minimum	density lbs/ft ³ minimum	thickness Inch minimum
POLY- URETHANE FOAM	Prime		2.2	0.375	Not Recommended for Class 2		
	Grafted Prime		2.7	0.250			
	Densified Prime		2.2	0.313		2.7	0.250
	Bonded		5.0	0.375		6.5	0.375
	Mechanically Frothed		10.0	0.250		12.0	0.250
FIBER	Synthetic Fibers	22	6.5	0.250	28	6.5	0.300
	Resinated Recycled Textile Fiber	24	7.3	0.250	30	7.3	0.300
RUBBER	Flat Rubber	56	18.0	0.220	64	21.0	0.220
	Rippled Rubber	48	14.0	0.285	64	16.0	0.330

Maximum thickness for any product is 0.5 inch

Class 1: Light and Moderate Traffic such as living, dining, bedrooms, and recreational rooms. Class 2 cushion may be used in Class 1 applications.

Class 2: Heavy Duty Traffic, such as lobbies and corridors in multi-family facilities, and all stair applications.

This chart illustrates products that meet minimum guidelines. Better grades of carpet cushion than the minimum suggested are always recommended, when possible, to provide more support and cushioning for carpet. In areas where heavy use is expected, the Carpet Cushion Council suggests using firmer grades of cushion. These areas include stairways, halls, and areas where heavy furniture is used, such as living rooms and dining rooms. Softer cushion may be used in bedrooms and lounge areas where use is lighter and a plusher "feel" is desired.

*HUD requirements have been in use for over 20 years, and have been proven to work. In addition, the Carpet Cushion Council in cooperation with other associations, has conducted extensive testing on different types of cushion to see how they perform. Ask your floor covering dealer for a cushion that meets or exceeds these requirements. The UM72a standards include other technical characteristics for each type of carpet cushion. Please contact the Carpet Cushion Council for further details.

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