



TEST FOR  
VACUUMABILITY

CARPET CUSHION  
IMPROVES YOUR  
BOTTOM LINE



*An informational service of the  
carpet cushion council*

## Maintenance Breakthrough

Cushion meeting the carpet cushion council commercial guidelines improved vacuumability of commercial carpet.

A recent study of soil removal has demonstrated that commercial carpet and commercial carpet cushion, properly installed by stretch-in or double-glue methods, shows as much as a 40% to 60% or greater improvement in test results compared to the same style of carpet installed without cushion.

A clean, well-maintained carpet looks better, is likely to last longer, and helps to control life cycle costs. Appearance retention is the key to carpet longevity in commercial installations. The research results on improved vacuumability provide additional evidence that cushion can play an important role in extending a carpet's lifetime of attractive appearance, and reduce the frequency of costly refurbishing and replacement.

More effective maintenance and enhanced appearance retention are only two of the many benefits carpet cushion brings to commercial installations. The products have also been found to provide noise absorption as much as double that of uncushioned systems.

When it comes to specifying carpet, lifetime performance is the single most important consideration. Carpet's aesthetics and design are highly valuable, but only as long as they are maintained throughout the carpet's life cycle.

Dirt that remains in the carpet can be highly abrasive to carpet fibers. Dirt and grit rubbing against the fibers abrade the fiber surfaces and dull a carpet's luster. To minimize this, the key is to specify cushion that helps make carpet easy to maintain with effective vacuuming and to keep up a comprehensive maintenance program.

A commercial carpet, when tested with Carpet Cushion Council endorsed cushion installed by stretch-in or double-glue methods, proved easier to clean in the vacuum test. The results demonstrated up to a 40% to 60% or greater improvement compared to the same carpet installed without cushion.

## TESTING FOR VACUUMABILITY

The test to evaluate the impact of carpet cushion on soil removal is conducted under highly controlled conditions. A specified amount of a special blend of oily and non-oily soils is applied and worked into the pre-conditioned carpet. After precise weighing of the carpet and the vacuum cleaner bag the carpet is installed on a belt, where it is cycled back and forth four times under a high performance commercial vacuum cleaner. Following vacuuming, the carpet and the vacuum bag are reweighed, and the percent soil removal is calculated.

The test method, originally designed for vacuum cleaner certification, evaluated soil removal efficiency on a commonly specified commercial carpet. A 26 ounce pile nylon carpet was chosen based on its dominance in the marketplace. Carpet without cushion was installed to simulate the direct-glue method, while the carpet over cushion was installed using two common installation methods: stretch-in and double-glue.

In the first test, carpet over cushion was installed in a manner simulating stretch-in installation. When tested with a commonly used commercial cushion, the results showed a 60% or greater improvement

compared to the same style of carpet installed without cushion. In every case in this segment of the study, the test carpet installed over cushion yielded improvements compared to the uncushioned carpet installation.

A similar test was conducted using the same 26-ounce nylon loop carpet and the same commercial cushion, but installed via the double-glue method. Again the commercial cushion produced better results than the direct glue comparison, yielding an improvement of more than 40% versus the same style of carpet installed without cushion.

Importantly, in every case of this segment of the study, carpet installed over cushion showed an improvement in vacuumability over carpet installed without cushion. While other carpet styles may show different results, the improvements quantified in this study appear to be generally consistent with experience in the industry.

## **CARPET CUSHION IMPROVES YOUR BOTTOM LINE**

Recent studies have demonstrated improved vacuumability when using cushion under a commercial carpet, keeping the carpet face from crushing and matting during years of foot traffic. Appearance retention, less frequent replacement and sound absorbency offer tangible returns on your investment in carpet cushion

## THE CARPET CUSHION COUNCIL

Founded in 1976, the Carpet Cushion Council serves as the trade association of U.S. and Canadian carpet cushion manufacturers of prime polyurethane foam, bonded polyurethane, sponge rubber, natural fiber and synthetic fiber cushion; and suppliers such as chemical producers and equipment suppliers.

The Council has spent many years working with every aspect of the carpet industry, from carpet mills to professional installers to retailers.

Among numerous services, the Council:

- Provides retailers and installers the necessary information to sell and use quality separate carpet cushion
- Demonstrates how quality cushion can make carpet look better, longer
- Tests types of carpet cushion and establishes guidelines for use
- Monitors legislation and regulations to keep the industry informed of changes and to help officials understand carpet cushion
- Surveys the industry to gather statistics on amount of cushion sold.



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