

CARPET CONSTRUCTION



It is important to understand carpet construction in order to apply the variables that affect performance of a specific installation. Tufted carpet consists of the following components: the face yarn, which can be cut pile, loop pile, or a combination of cut and loop pile; primary backing fabric; a bonding compound, usually SB latex, but may be polyurethane, PVC, or fabric; and (often) a secondary backing fabric.

The development of the broadloom tufting machine and the introduction of synthetic carpet yarns in the early 1950s transformed the American carpet industry from low-volume production of woven luxury products to mass production of high-quality and comfortable, yet popularly priced, goods. The explosive growth of carpet sales in the United States in the ensuing years paralleled the continual development of tufting technology, the proliferation of high-speed tufting machines, and the development of synthetic carpet fibers and alternative backing systems. As a result, today's carpet is both better and less expensive.

Figures 1.1 and 1.2 illustrate how these elements are combined to form carpet.

Figure 1.1

TYPICAL CUT PILE CARPET PROFILE

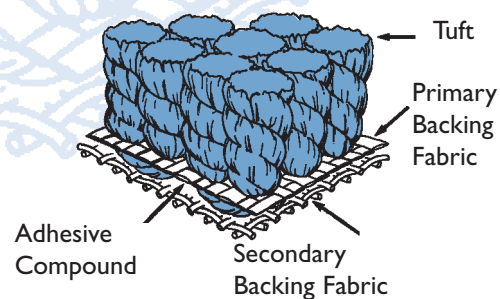


Figure 1.2

TYPICAL LOOP PILE CARPET WITH ATTACHED CUSHION OR SPECIALTY BACK

