



Underneath Your Carpet

Carpet underlayment is an aspect of flooring that is not always given the attention it deserves. Whether you use the term underlayment, underlay, under pad, under cushion or carpet cushion you will want to pay special attention to this product the next time you purchase carpet. Selecting the proper carpet underlayment can make or break your carpet purchase.

A quality underlayment is important because it aids in the performance of your carpet. The main function of underlayment is to dampen impact from foot or furniture traffic to protect the carpet from breaking down on top. This cushion between the subfloor and carpet adds to the soft feeling of carpet and acts as both an insulator against noise and temperature.

The most common form of underlayment is made from chip-foam and rated on a density pound scale. Density is a much better measure of

performance than thickness because an underlayment that is thick but not dense will still flex too much underfoot and breakdown quickly. When selecting carpet underlayment your lifestyle and the location of the carpet will be the determining factors in choosing which underlayment is best for you. If you have kids/grandkids, pets or are very active then these elements should factor into the buying decision.

An active household will want to go with a more dense underlayment in order to ensure the carpet wears well and its performance holds up. The last thing anyone wants is to invest in a quality carpet only to see it start to wear early because of choosing the wrong underlayment for the application. Additionally, underlayment can be found with features that can further aid in the performance of the carpet. Underlayment with an antimicrobial layer on the surface helps to prevent water or stains from soaking right into the underlayment. This feature allows for stains to be cleaned much easier and prevents odours.

Hopefully, these few points have helped shed some light on the importance of selecting the right carpet underlayment for your lifestyle and will stay top of mind the next time you change your carpet.



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