

Tips to Choosing a Carpet

So, it's come to choosing the carpet for your home. This is one of those tasks that no one likes to face. It's hard work, it's time consuming. But in the end, it's worth it. After all, a carpet is one of the finishing touches to your home. A carpet can make or break a room and you are the one that has to live with it. Why not get it right first time around?

Many people don't know where to start when it comes to buying a carpet. To make your life easier, our guide to choosing a carpet is broken down into easy steps.

1. Colours and patterns

Now this may seem obvious, but you should really take it into careful consideration. You may know the base colour that you're looking for. But when it comes to carpet, there are so many different shades of that base colour, it can all get a little overwhelming.

Don't be afraid to try colours that you wouldn't expect either. Some rooms will thrive with a vibrant colour. Especially rooms with neutral coloured décor.

The most popular colour for carpet in a home is beige, by far. It's simply because beige works in all rooms. Regardless of your décor you can easily expect a neutral coloured carpet to fit in quite nicely.

Patterned carpets can make the world of difference. If your home is full of life, children running around and playing with the pets, you expect the worst. One day there is going to be the inevitable spillage, dirty mark or general accident and it's going to happen on your beloved carpet. Now with a plain carpet, this will show up quite clearly. However, if you have a flecked carpet, stripy carpet or any other type of pattern, this is going to help to mask the accident. Thus, saving you from replacing the carpet at any point down the line.

2. Budget

It's all well and good choosing your ideal colours and patterns, but for a lot of people, it's the price that makes the main difference. It would come highly recommended to find out what kind of price that you'd be looking at for your carpet. Not just the price of the carpet either. There are materials that you should expect to factor in too. Are you getting it fitted professionally? Do you need spray glue? Underlay? Gripper rods? All of these materials, and more, should come into your budget.

The easiest way to create a list for your budget would be to visit your local carpet shop. Ask questions about prices, the fitting process, what materials would be needed and what the advantages would be to professional carpet fitting. Once you have all of this ammunition you can then make compare your favourite carpets from each supplier and make an informed decision.

3. Underlay options

Underlay and carpet go together perfectly. There are numerous advantages to having underlay fitted with your favourite carpet. There's the way it adds extra depth. Even the shortest pile carpet can feel luxurious with some underlay below. You're also going to save money in the long run. Underlay is known for having a superb ability of insulating a room. There won't be any heat escaping through the hard floor below your carpet. Just warmth from beneath. Sound deadening is just another advantage of underlay. We could go on forever about the advantages of underlay. But what about

the disadvantages? The only disadvantage is that there is more than one option for you to choose from. Of course, you can always opt to go without underlay and have your carpet fitted straight to the floor. This is perfect for a carpet with a felt backing. A budget solution for anyone that wants a quick and cheap fix. If it's softness and longevity that you're looking for, you're going to want a quality underlay.

4. Material

One of the things that gets frequently overlooked when planning out the carpet for your room is the material.

For a living room, you want the carpet to be something that you look forward to stepping on. You want it to be soft, warm beneath your feet and hardwearing. It's quite easy to choose a carpet material these days. Most materials are soft and most will provide warmth. But it's the hard wearing factor that you need to be mindful of. Wool and 80:20 carpets are highly durable carpets and soft to the touch whereas some man made carpets boast durability, but not softness.

If it's for a room that you just want longevity in. You want to be looking more towards the man made carpets. You can give a Polypropylene carpet as much abuse as you like and it will just thank you for it. Simply give it a good scrub and it's back to life. Perfect for high traffic areas including hallways, landings, offices and more.

5. Where to buy?

Ensure you do your research when it comes to the different carpet shops.

Some carpet shops only specialise in certain types of carpet. This makes it difficult to choose the right carpet. There will be a lot more options available to you in a carpet shop that stocks carpet in a variety of materials.

Throw some questions at the staff. You can expect the staff of a reputable carpet shop to have quick and knowledgeable responses to your questions. Whilst you're asking questions, ask about their fitting service. Are the fitters experienced? Have they been working for the company long? You can learn a lot about the experience of a fitter by how long they've been working for the company. If they've spent a long time at the company you can expect a fitter that knows what they're doing. After all, a fitter that isn't experienced (or not very good) won't be employed for a long time!

What about after sales service? If there are any problems with your carpet, what will they do about it? Make sure you're armed with all the questions that you need before you go carpet shopping.