

How is Carpet Made?

- Carpet manufacturing today is a mix of old-world craftsmanship and 21st century innovation.
- Carpet is manufactured in one of two ways – **weaving** or **tufting**.
- Woven carpet is made primarily with wool and are exceptionally durable (and frequently expensive).
- Woven carpets can be produced by hand – much in the same way that has been used for centuries – or by machine. Both methods follow the same procedures.
- Yarn is woven through or around vertical fibers called warps, then locked into place with horizontal strands called wefts.
- Woven carpets can utilize a wide variety of colors to create intricate patterns in the highest quality carpets.
- More than 90% of carpets sold today are created using the tufted method.
- Tufting machines use computers to determine patterns, styles, construction and density.
- Once the fibers are in place, the carpet is dyed using a variety of methods to create patterns or effects.
- For cut-pile carpeting, the final stage is stretched, or cutting the pile loops. This stage will help determined the carpet's feel and softness.
- The carpet also receives a secondary stretched backing to give it stability and allow it to be stretched during installation.
- Most carpets today also receive stain protection during the manufacturing phase.
- The quality of a carpet will also depend on the type of yarn used, and how that yarn is treated during manufacturing.
- **Continuous fibers** are heat-set and twisted at the mill to produce a tightly twisted product most commonly found in **frieze** carpets. This kind of yarn is less bulky but holds its shape for a long time.
- The other common type of yarn is **spun** or **staple** yarn, which is made from short lengths of fiber that are spun together, creating a yarn that is much less likely to unravel. Staple yarns will go through a complex series of treatments, including blending, spinning, twisting and heat setting.