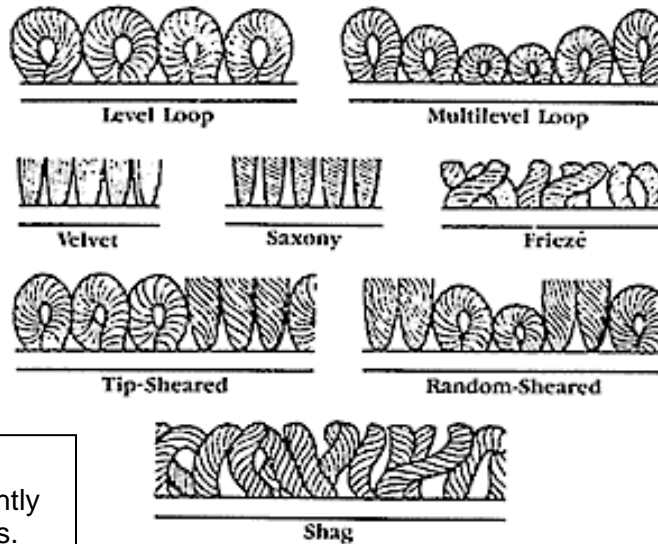


Carpet Construction & Texture

Texture selection is determined by personal taste, furnishing and lifestyle. Options range from smooth velvet plush to rough, bulky Berbers. Texture is created by the size of the yarns, the twist of the yarns and the surface structure of the finished carpet. Most carpet originally is constructed in a loop pile surface.

Level Loop – the loops in level loop pile texture are all the same height, producing a pebbly appearance. The closer together the loops, the more durable and easy to clean the carpet. Berber-textured carpets usually are level loop pile, constructed of thick-bulked yarns. Some are tipsheared.

Multi-level Loop – the multi-level loop pile texture has loops of different heights, creating a sculptural surface. Carpet with this texture hides soiling better than level loop pile but, all other factors being equal, may not be as durable.



Cut Pile – In cut pile carpeting, the tops of the loops have been cut away. Velvet, plush and Saxony textures all have a level surface but differ in yarn twist. Velvet or plush carpets are made of yarns with very little twist. The yarn ends blend together, producing a smooth surface. Velvet has a shorter pile height than plush. Saxony textures are made of twisted, heat-set yarns. The tips of the yarns remain distinct rather than blending together.

Frieze (free-zay) – Freize carpets are constructed of tightly twisted, heat-set cut pile yarns. The tight twist of the yarn creates a coarse, pebbly texture good for hiding tracks and soil, and gives good wear-resistance.

Carved & Sculptured – Carved and sculptured designs in woven carpets are achieved through cutting away part of the face yarns, creating very definite, distinctive textured patterns. Similar effects are achieved in non-woven structures by means of multi-level constructions.

* Olefin fibers may be polyethylene/olefin or polypropylene/olefin. Labels often carry both terms for accuracy in fiber identification.

* The Berber texture is named for a handmade, bulky wool carpet made by the Berber tribes of North America.

A combination of cut and uncut loops is used to construct tip-sheared, random-sheared and shag textures.

Tip Sheared – A tip sheared texture has a level surface with cut and uncut loops. It does not shade as much as velvet/plush textures, nor does it hide footprints as well as level-loop pile texture.

Random Sheared – Multi-level loop pile carpet with the tops of the highest loops shorn away produces random sheared texture.

Shag – Shag textures are produced with long pile yarns of cut and uncut loops. Both of these textures hide soiling but are less durable than the multi-level loop pile carpet texture.

Velvet/plush carpet tends to “shade,” especially with heavy use. Footprints show easily and the carpet color looks different in one place than it does in another. This is the result of fibers lying in different directions, reflecting light differently. Vacuuming can move the pile so it lies the same way, but this is only temporary.

Permanent removal of shading is impossible. It is characteristic of velvet/plush carpeting and is a factor to be carefully weighted before investing in velvet/plush carpet.