

The History of Carpet

Since the days when prehistoric man used animal skins to cushion their cave floors, carpets have been a basic feature of human domestic life. The evolution of carpeting has been affected by social, economical and fashion developments. In fact, the pursuit of better forms of carpet has led to many ingenious and important advances in manufacturing technology.

Following are some of the key milestones in the history of carpet – from caveman times to today’s billion-dollar, high-tech industries.

6000 BC	1000 AD	1596	1685	1770-1790	1791	1839	1800-1850	1845	1877	1900-1930	1926	1930'S	1940-1950	1947	1950-1990	1965	1971-1995
↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Goats & sheep are sheared for wool & hair, which is then spun & woven.	Marco Polo discovers rug making in Central Asia during a trading mission. Traders spread the technique to Persia, India, China & North America.	Pierre DuPont begins weaving carpets in Paris.	Fleeing religious persecution French weavers settle in England and set up operations in Wilton.	Hand-made carpet making flourishes in Britain, attracting top makers.	William Sprague opens first U.S. woven carpet mill in Philadelphia. Others sprout up in early 1800's,	U.S. manufacturer Erastus Bigelow invents the power loom for weaving carpets, doubling carpet production in the first year.	Industrial revolution in England sees rapid change in textile production	Alexander Smith starts carpet manufacturing plant in West Farms, N.Y., which later became the largest producer of carpets & rugs in the world. During WW I, the carpet looms were converted to make tent duck and navy blankets.	Bigelow introduces the first broadloom carpet.	1000's of local women around Dalton, GA., are employed to sew hand-tufted Chenille bedspreads	U.S industrialist Marshall Field modifies a weaving loom to create machine made rugs woven through the back, similar to hand made Oriental carpets featuring intricate designs & unlimited color variety.	First mechanized tufting machine developed in Dalton, which transformed the textile and carpet industries that flourished in the area.	Tufted carpets begin to capture U.S. market, at the expense of woven carpet.	Nylon yarns introduced providing durable, luxurious quality fibers similar to wool, but much less expensive.	Tufted carpet market grows steadily, in time securing 90% of the carpeting market. Dalton, GA., emerges as carpet capitol of the world.	Polyester carpeting introduced.	In Britain, woven carpet production declines by 70% as tufted production increases by 300%.