

Idealhome carpet shopping checklist

Get the right carpet in just one shopping trip. We teamed up with the experts at the Carpet Foundation to create a handy checklist as a reminder of the questions to ask, and remind yourself what all the jargon means

Questions to ask in store

- See if you can take a sample of the carpet home with you, it may look darker or lighter in a different light.
- Ask about underlay. New underlay can prolong the life of your carpet up to 40%. Your carpet salesman should provide advice on the best type.
- Look for the Carpet Foundation Quality Mark. This means the carpet has passed rigorous independent testing and is good quality.
- Check the suitability of the carpet; if you're carpeting a high-traffic room will it be hard wearing enough?
- Most importantly of all ask the retailer if they are a registered specialist of the Carpet Foundation. Amongst other things this will ensure that they are able to offer expert advice, written quotations, deposit protection, extended guarantees and free consultation. Visit www.carpetfoundation.co.uk for a full list of registered retailers.

Don't forget to measure!

Measure your room carefully, if you're worried about making mistakes think about getting it professionally measured.

| Room | Width | Length | Sq M ² |
|------|-------|--------|-------------------|
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Check with the store that you are buying enough carpet – better to have some left over than not enough.

Know your Saxony from your velvet with our carpet jargon buster

- ❖ **Wool** is a soft, durable carpet fibre.
- ❖ **Nylon** is very strong and doesn't flatten easily. It is often used in blends with wool.
- ❖ **Polypropylene** is stain resistant and wears well but is flammable and flattens easily.
- ❖ **Polyester** wears well and is easily cleaned but does flatten.
- ❖ **80/20 carpet** is a mix of 80% wool with 20% man-made fibre, usually nylon, to improve durability.
- ❖ **Twist pile** is a cut-pile carpet with a more textured surface. Great for hallways, stairs and main rooms.
- ❖ **Velvet pile** has a luxurious appearance. It looks softer than twist pile but is just as hard wearing.
- ❖ **Saxony** has a sensuous feel with a deep pile making it a popular choice for bedrooms. Saxony carpets do flatten so aren't practical in high traffic areas.
- ❖ **Loop or cord pile** has a similar appearance to natural flooring. It looks good in hallways and on stairs.



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