

Carpeting

Snapshot

Highest priced unit:	\$37.60
Average priced unit:	\$24.20
Lowest priced unit:	\$12.10

Pricing Trends

2007-2008: +3% to +10%

2008-2009: +15%

2009-2010: +5% to +10%

Typical delivery time: 2 to 4 weeks

Typical delivery charges: Varies, depending on location

Average life span of product: 7 to 10 years

Standard warranty: Some offer "lifetime" but typically range from 7 years upward

Average maintenance cost per year:
Varies widely, depending on carpet type, location and usage.

(Figures cited are averages of all respondents' answers. Actual pricing will vary due to volume, bundling and other factors of a purchase.)

Source: Tandus, Shaw Contract Group, Milliken Carpet, Interface FLOR Commercial



Photo: Tandus

FROM THE FRONT LINES:

"Designers don't have to worry about maintenance so they're usually picking a product because it looks nice. But you want something that will be a good long-term investment, and be highly cleanable. My preference is a vinyl-backed surface. You want as few seams as possible. There are so many opportunities for moisture to get through."

Jenny Kemper, Principal, Interiors for Senior Living, Cleveland

Buyer Notes

- Remember that the cost of carpeting usually has two components: the acquisition cost and the long-term upkeep cost. Over the possible 20-year life of a carpeted surface, the initial costs may account for 20% to 25% of the total cost of ownership, one expert notes. The balance will go to maintenance, repairs and replacement.
- Check whether moisture maintenance is an option with a desired product. Also, inquire about how maintenance might affect air quality.
- Inquire up front about how much "down time" there will be for installation. If entire hallways are put "out of action" for several days, for example, it could cost thousands of dollars in lost resident charges.

**For a list of vendors go to the:
FURNISHINGS & FURNITURE section,
pages 100-101**