

1959

## EC59-1138 Guide to Selecting Carpets...

Jerre Withrow

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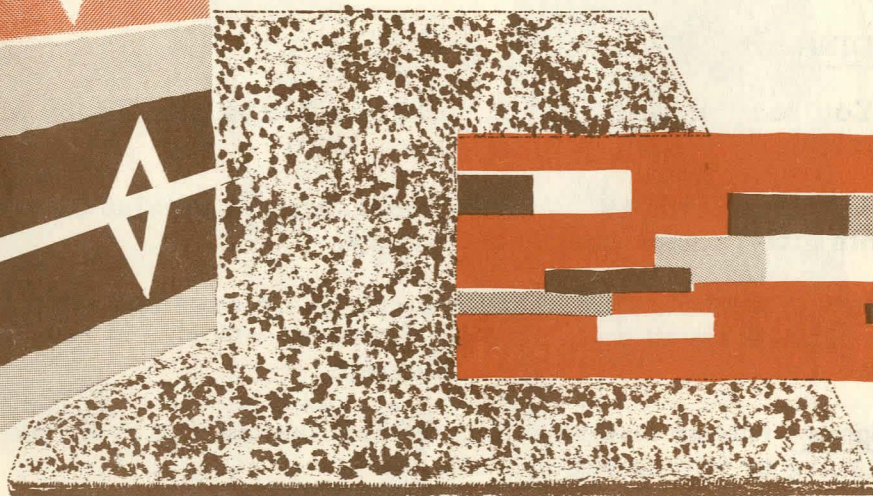
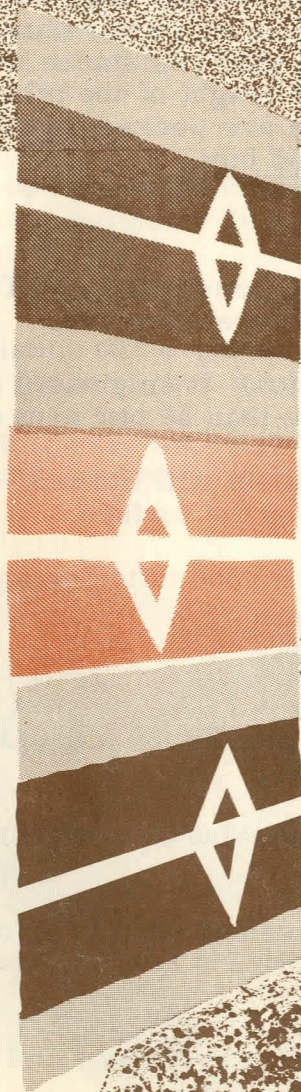
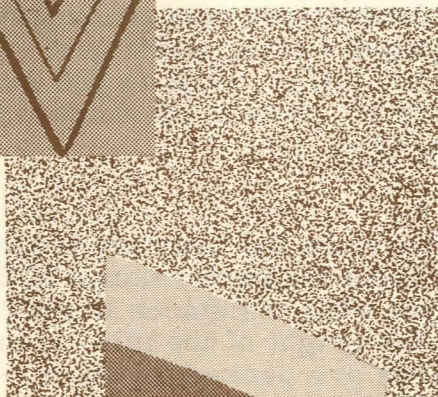
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# guide to selecting

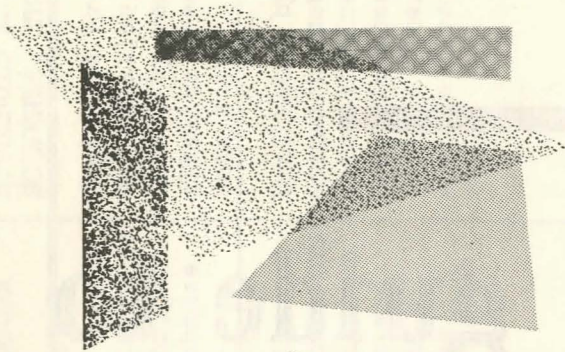
## CARPETS...



EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
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W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR E. W. JANIKE, ASSOC. DIRECTOR



# GUIDE TO SELECTING *carpeting....*



By  
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Extension Specialist in Housing

Many factors determine the choice of a carpet. A variety of fibers and construction as well as a wide range in prices are available. The wisest selection depends largely on your particular needs. How long do you want the carpet to last? How much traffic will it get? Will food stains be likely? How do you want the room to look? How much money can you invest?

## WEAR

The traffic will vary in each room and therefore the fiber needed and the grade of carpet will vary. This is where knowledge about the performance of fibers will save you money. The chart on the back will tell you what resistance to wear you may expect from each. With any fiber, regardless of the height of the pile, remember that the denser the carpet -- or the tighter the yarns are packed together -- the better the carpet. This is the best single clue to a good buy.

## CONSTRUCTION

Weaving represents one type of carpet construction. The terms wilton and axminster, velvet and chenille describe a type of weave.

Tufting is another type of carpet construction. It originated in the carpet field in the early 1950's and already accounts for more than 50 per cent of carpets produced.

Knitting, the third type of carpet construction, is still limited. The process is fast and it makes excellent use of fiber by keeping it on the surface.

Assuming that you're buying a good woven, a good tufted or a good knitted carpet, the type is relatively unimportant.

## PADDING

You may expect to pay between \$1.50 and \$2.50 a square yard for excellent underlays.

Hair cushioning is made of animal hair and retains its resiliency for life. Heavier weights give greater quality and luxury.

Jute is another cushioning material, a plant fiber, perfectly acceptable when properly combined with hair. It will, however, absorb and retain water, and over a period of time mat down, shred and disintegrate.

Sponge rubber underlay is noted for outstanding resiliency and is easily cleaned by vacuuming or wiping with a cloth.

Underlay will increase the wear of your carpet at least 50 per cent. It will cushion the carpet from shocks and force the carpet to rebound, thus assisting the fiber to maintain the resiliency it possesses.



## APPEARANCE

Light shades make the room appear larger. Coverings the same color as the walls add spaciousness. Deep piles are luxurious while textured surfaces suggest informality. Medium tones show soil least. Generally, a carpet of subdued color is a better background for furnishings. Brighter color may be used if the carpet is the major interest in the room.

## PRICE

Most manufacturers, even those who have lower-priced items in their lines, prefer the following as "beginning prices" in shopping, and for quality the "preferred price" per square yard:

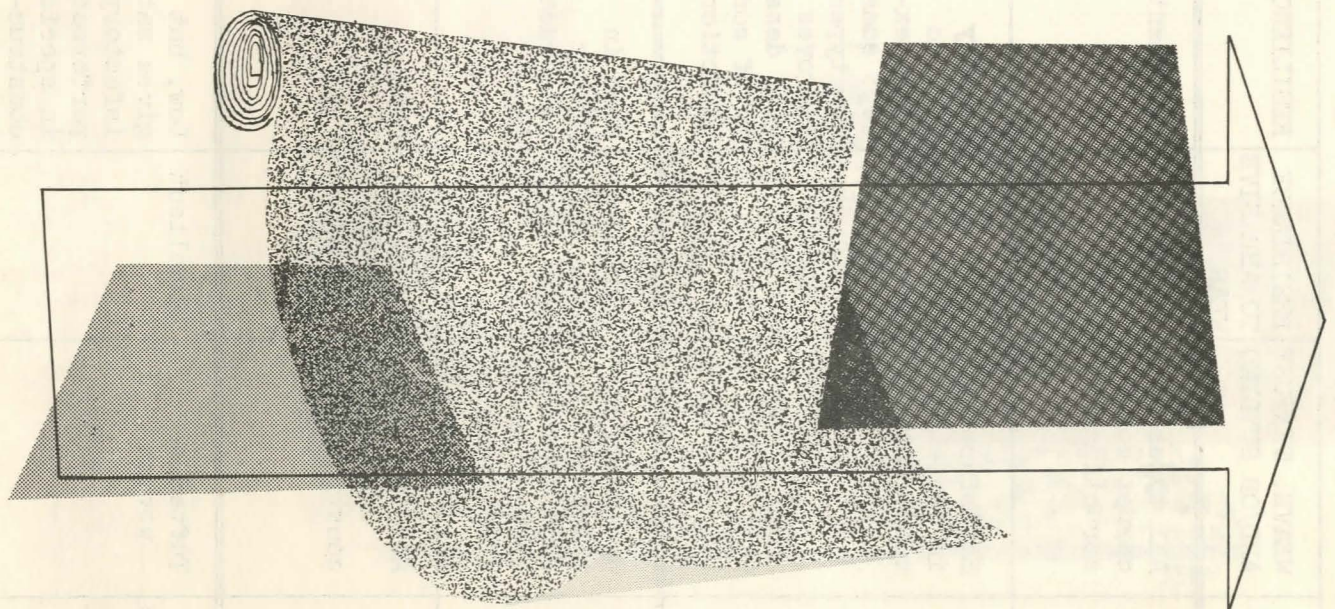
<u>Fiber</u>	<u>Beginning Price</u>	<u>Preferred Price</u>
Acetate	\$ 6.95	\$ 7.95
Acrylics	9.95	12.95
Cotton	4.95	6.95
Nylon	9.95	12.95
Rayon	5.95	7.95
Wool	9.95	12.95

Competition is so tight in the carpet field that extra money usually buys more yarn. In general there are no "bargains" in carpet.

## FIBER

Many characteristics of the carpet depend on the fiber used. Study the chart on the back in terms of the needs of your family.

Decide what qualities are important to you, be realistic about the performance you expect from a carpet, and about the price you expect to pay. Then investigate the market.





CARPET SELECTION CHART

FIBER	WEAVE, TEXTURE AND/OR STYLING	RESISTANCE TO ABRASIVE WEAR	RESILIENCE	SOIL RESISTANCE	SPECIAL CLEANING SPECIFICATIONS	FLAME RESISTANCE	ADAPTABILITY TO COLOR	EFFECT OF COMMON HOUSEHOLD ACIDS, SOLVENTS, ETC.
100% Wool	All types of carpet con- structions	Good	Excellent	Excellent to good	Can be cleaned, without diffi- culty. Avoid alkaline de- tergents.	Excellent	Good on all but lightest and bright- est shades	Destroyed by str- ong alkalies, at- tacked by weak alkalies, resists weak acids
100% Rayon	Satisfactory in dense pile constructions.	Poor to fair	Usually fair to poor, ex- cept some new types. Improves with densi- ty of con- struction	Poor, but can be treated to improve soil resis- tance. De- lustered fibers best in this re- gard.	Can be cleaned with special precautions. Not all cleaners equipped to handle on lo- cation.	Good if construc- tion dense and sur- face fuzz lacking. Otherwise can be poor.	Excellent. Can take ex- tremely light and bright shades.	Unaffected by normal household acids & solvents. Lye, bleaches, destroy fiber. Acetone dissolves fiber
100% Nylon	Generally ap- plicable in same woven & tufted con- structions as all-woven.	Excellent	Good in proper construct- ions	Fair to good in de- lustered fibers ex- cept oil	See wool. Very readily spot- cleaned for stains	Excellent	Excellent. Very light shades pos- sible	Resistant to most acids & solvents
100% Acri- lan	All types of carpet constructions	Equal to wool	Good	Excellent to Good except oil	Responds satis- factorily to standard methods	Flame travel de- pends on texture and constr- uction	Wide range of colors possible.	Good resistance to most acids and solvents.
100% Cotton	Tufted or woven	Excellent	Low, but gives sat- isfactory performance in special construc- tions de- signed for this fiber.	Fair, tends to show soil. Can be improved with special finishes	See 100% Rayon. All not equipped to handle on location.	See 100% Rayon	See 100% Rayon	See 100% Rayon