

The Facts about Carpet and Indoor Air Quality

For School Administrators and Facility Managers

Making the right decisions about carpet starts with having the facts. That is why the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) sponsors scientific research and gathers data from independent sources to help professionals and the public make educated flooring choices. **Visit carpet-rug.org to learn more.**

Issue

New carpet emits the lowest levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) of common flooring choices.

What You Should Know

- Carpet manufacturers were the first in the flooring industry to thoroughly study their products for indoor air quality effects in schools and commercial settings.
- In 1992, CRI launched its **Green Label program** that sets limits for how much VOCs from carpet, adhesives and cushion can be released into the air. Since then, the program has voluntarily raised indoor air quality (IAQ) standards four times by requiring even lower emission levels and increasing the number of compounds studied.
- As a result, carpet has become not only the lowest VOC-emitting floor covering, but is also one of the lowest-emitting construction and renovation products overall – much lower than products such as paint.
- CRI set the standard again when it worked with California's Sustainable Building Task Force and the Department of Health to establish **Green Label Plus**. Green Label Plus meets, and even exceeds, the low emitting product testing protocols used by the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS).
- To maintain good IAQ, you should select only carpet, adhesive or cushion identified as Green Label or Green Label Plus.
- Also, know that the low emission of new carpet drops significantly after 24 hours. With fresh air ventilation, even sooner.