



## MAJOR TYPES OF CARPET FIBER

### Nylon

The largest selling type of commercial carpet consists of nylon pile yarn. Nylon carpet has developed and improved over the years. Each succeeding breakthrough in nylon carpet manufacturing is called a "generation." The five generations of nylon carpet are:

- **Generation 1** Delustered or dull fiber. Round fiber in cross-section.
- **Generation 2** Soil-hiding. Multi-lobal or multi-sided fiber in cross-section. These fibers produced static electricity.
- **Generation 3** Anti-static, multi-lobal, soil hiding.
- **Generation 4** Stain and soil resistant. Covered with a coating of fluorocarbon similar to Scotchgard or Teflon. Anti-static, multi-lobal, soil hiding.
- **Generation 5** Stain resistant, anti-microbial, anti-static, multi-lobal, and soil hiding. These fibers are anionic or negatively charged and should be cleaned with anionic or non-ionic cleaning solutions (not cationic solutions). Dry cleaning solvents may cause the stain repellent to lose its efficacy.

### Polypropylene (olefin)

A synthetic pile yarn fiber used extensively for outdoor carpeting.

### Polyester

Is an inexpensive carpet pile yarn that is used principally in residential installations.

### Wool

A minor (1% of the market) but important fiber in carpets is the oldest carpet fiber, wool. Wool is beautiful, expensive and must be maintained properly and carefully.

When cleaning wool carpet, extreme care should be taken to avoid over-wetting and high alkaline cleaners. Improper chemicals on wool carpet cause "alkaline browning discoloration." Browning is an easily remedied condition when a "brown-out" treatment is applied to the carpet. Over-wetting a wool carpet can cause jute bleeding discoloration from backing yarns used in carpet weaving processes.