



Many carpet manufacturers offer products made with recycled carpet content.

Californians want to know what happens to their old carpet. This bulky material takes up a lot of space in our landfills, and stays there, unchanged, for hundreds of years. But just as we recycle cans and bottles, there are ways to recycle carpet. The California Carpet Stewardship Program is working to find environmentally-friendly uses for carpet.

You can help:

- **Buy wisely.** Ask your retailer about eco-friendly carpet and fiber underlayment. Look for products with recycled carpet content.
- **Recycle right.** Ask your contractor to recycle your old carpet. To find a carpet collection site in your area, visit CarpetRecovery.org/CA.
- **Learn more.** Carpet recycling is a complex business. To learn more about how carpet gets recycled in California, visit CarpetRecovery.org/CA or email CA@CarpetRecovery.org.

Who is CARE?

Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance market-based solutions that increase landfill diversion and reuse and recycling of post-consumer carpet, and that encourage design for recyclability.



CARE administers the California Carpet Stewardship Program, which is charged with meeting the requirements for carpet recycling set by California law AB 2398 and managed by CalRecycle.

For more information, please visit the CARE website at CarpetRecovery.org/CA.

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At the end of life, old carpet is collected at retailers and disposal sites—such as transfer stations and landfills—for recycling or diversion.

Photo by CARE Participating Rural County Program Collection Site (Tehama County)



Carpet Recycling in California



An initiative of CARE:
Carpet America Recovery Effort

CarpetRecovery.org/CA

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What are the benefits of recycling carpet?

Over 340 million pounds of carpet head to California landfills every year—carpet that could be recycled into useful new products. The carpet industry and carpet recyclers have been working to divert tens of millions of pounds of carpet from California landfills. In 2015, 81 million pounds (23%) of post-consumer carpet was kept out of California landfills. These efforts have already preserved limited landfill space and saved precious natural resources, but together we can do more.

Why is this California Carpet Stewardship Assessment charge on my bill?

Passed in 2010, AB 2398 is a California law that requires an assessment to be added to

Photos from left: Recycled carpet fibers are turned back into new carpet thread to be used in new carpet or other materials. Carpet tiles can be easily recycled and also reduce waste by allowing individual tiles to be replaced. Recycled carpet fiber can be combined with other recycled textiles, such as blue jeans, to create energy-efficient insulation.

all carpet sold in California. The assessment money is used to encourage and support increased reuse and recycling of carpet in order to reduce waste going to landfill. All retailers in California are required to charge the assessment to customers.

How much is the assessment?

The assessment is a per square yard charge on all forms of indoor/outdoor carpet and carpet tile sold in California. (Area rugs are not included.) Ask your retailer how much the assessment will be on your carpet purchase.

Who receives the money from the assessment?

The funds collected from the assessment are directed to a set of enhanced incentives

for processors and collectors involved in the recycling of post-consumer carpet. In addition, CARE has implemented a grant program to facilitate capital investment in processing capacity and also product development and testing, which are critical to growing market outlets for recycled carpet.

How is recycled carpet used?

In 2015 alone, processors recycled 35 million pounds of old carpet collected from California homes and businesses.

Old carpet can be recycled into brand new carpet fiber for broadloom or carpet tiles, carpet cushion underlayment, geotextiles and plastic pellets, which can be used to make a range of products for industries including automotive, transportation, construction and home and garden.



L to R: Aquafil USA, Interface, Bonded Logic