

CARPET RECYCLING IN CALIFORNIA



CarpetRecovery.org/CA



**California Carpet
Stewardship Program**

An initiative of CARE: Carpet America Recovery Effort

Carpet installers carefully remove carpet and get it ready for recycling.



What **happens** to your old carpet?

Californians want to know what happens to their old carpet. This bulky, fossil-fuel based 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, develop and support the growth of environmentally-friendly uses for recycled carpet materials.

What are the **benefits** of recycling carpet?

Approximately 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 2017, 79 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.



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



Which **products** contain recycled carpet?

You will find recycled carpet material insulating your walls, in carpet padding, in landscaping material, even in your car or truck. See products containing recycled California carpet material at CarpetRecovery.org/Products.

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 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.

Many carpet manufacturers offer products made with recycled carpet content.





(Left) Assessment funds support more efficient carpet collection. A grant from CARE supported this cover to keep carpet dry and ready to be recycled. (Below) Recycled carpet fibers are turned back into thread to be used in carpet or other materials.

How **much** is the assessment?

The assessment is 35 cents per square yard effective January 1, 2019.

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.)

Who **receives** the money from the assessment?

The funds collected from the assessment are directed to a set of enhanced incentives for collectors, sorters, processors and manufacturers involved in the recycling of post-consumer carpet into new products.





Carpet is recycled into many useful products, including wheelchair ramps.

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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.

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.



What Happens to OLD CARPET?

1. TEAR-OUT

Worn carpet is removed by installers. The carpet needs to be clean and dry in order to be recycled.



2. COLLECTION

The carpet is taken to a drop-off site, where it is sorted by fiber type.



3. PROCESSING

The carpet goes to a processor, where it is recycled into fiber material, plastic pellets or filler.



4. MANUFACTURE

The recycled carpet material then goes to manufacturers, where it is used in a wide array of products, including carpet, padding, mats, insulation and more.

Thank you for doing your part to
RECYCLE CARPET.



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