CARPET RECYCLING IN CALIFORNIA

CarpetRecovery.org/CA

California Carpet Stewardship Program
An Initiative of CARE: Carpet America Recovery Effort
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?

Over 300 million pounds of carpet are discarded 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. Since 2011, recyclers have collected over one billion pounds of carpet in the state. 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, wheelchair ramps, 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.

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. A law passed in 2019 requires that the assessment amount reflect how easily the carpet material can be recycled. The assessment amount is based on two factors: carpet type — broadloom vs. carpet tile — and the percent of post-consumer (PC) content in the carpet.

These different assessments are required by law. Area rugs are not included in the assessment.

Who receives the money from the assessment?

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

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.

The assessment helps fund increased and more efficient collection such as containers, small custom trailers, weather protection structures and equipment to load recyclable carpet.

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 collected at a drop-off site.

3. SORTING/PROCESSING
The carpet is sorted by fiber type, then 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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