

Backing:

Primary backing is what the fibre itself is attached to. Further to this, the backing consists of a system of layered vinyl compounds and fibreglass for added stability. Cushion Backing: Padding for added comfort, made as an integral part of the backing.

Carpet Tiles:

Carpet is available in either broadloom or tiles. The advantage of the tile format is a much higher degree of flexibility, access to under floor services, and considerably less waste. With Westbond's minimum order quantity of 1 m², the floor covering can be as varied as desired. Even though our standard size is 50x50cm, most Westbond carpet tiles are available in any size up to 100x100 cm.

Commercial Matching:

Matching of colours within acceptable tolerances, or with a colour variation that is barely detectable to the naked eye.

Dimensional Stability:

Ability of carpet tiles to retain size and shape once installed. Bonded carpet has no need for added stability, as there is no inherent tension. For tufted carpet, this stability is added with the help of Secondary Backing.

Dye Lot / Batch:

A quantity of yarn dyed at any one time, which is consistently the same colour throughout.

Dye Methods:

Westbond use two dye methods:

- **Hank Dye:**
 - A hank of yarn is dipped in a vat of colour. Hank dyed yarn produces colour vibrancy unequalled in any other type of yarn, offers high flexibility, and has the advantage that it can be re-dyed, thereby eliminating waste.
- **Solution Dye:**
 - Pigment is added to the molten polymer from which the yarn is made, and the fibre is extruded in coloured form. Therefore it offers excellent dye fastness properties, but it cannot be re-dyed to another colour.

Flex:

Westbond's unique Flex system allows up to 12 different colours to be interchanged. As all colours are dyed before the mixing, and therefore primary colours, there is no print to wear off. With Westbond's standard colour range of 164, millions of combinations are readily available – all from 1 m².

I-bond:

A method of carpet manufacture. The individual yarn pile is implanted onto the backing material, to have the highest possible density. Inherently the best way to produce tiles, as there is no tension or curving.

ISO (International Standardisation Organisation):

A non-governmental, worldwide organisation whose work results in international agreements that are published as International Standards. Westbond is in possession of 2 ISO certifications; ISO9001 which cover quality control and implementation, and ISO14001 which cover environmental issues. Both are examined on an annual basis, to make sure approved manufacturers keep living up to the agreed standards.

Pile Density:

The weight of pile yarn in a volume of carpet.

Pile Weight:

The weight in grammes of yarn fibre in a square meter of carpet

PVC (PolyVinyl Chloride):

PVC is a hard plastic that is made softer and more flexible by the addition of plasticizers.

Currently as standard most Westbond carpet tiles are backed by PVC. This product gives excellent dimensional stability, and because of its constant properties, it is easily recyclable and can continually be re-processed into new products such as traffic cones.

Westbond have developed an alternative PVC free backing, so that alternative recycling opportunities can be realised.

Tufting:

A method of carpet manufacture. Surface yarns are sewn through primary backing. The needles of the tufting machine create loops, which can remain (loop pile), be partially sheared (cut & loop) or fully sheared (cut pile). Allows for texture and patterns in the carpet.

Yarn Types:

- **Nylon:**
 - Petrochemical fibre invented in 1938 by DuPont. It is the dominant carpet fibre for the contract market, due to wear characteristics. Due to its raw material, price can fluctuate.
- **Polypropylene:**
 - Low cost alternative to nylon, with poor resilience, low melting point and poor texture retention. Not recommended for the contract market, and not used by Westbond.
- **Wool:**
 - The most luxurious material used for carpets, all naturally sourced, and has inherent low flammability and soft feel. When mixed with 20% Nylon, its wear characteristics become comparable with Nylon.