

Tai Ping take great care in the production of our hand-made carpets using only premium products and superior fibres consistently evaluated for quality and stability. We are aware of the risks of humidity and over the years we have developed effective anti-mildew agents which are impregnated into the backing layer. During production we add an antimicrobial treatment to the latex backing on all Hand Tufted carpets. This is very effective and provides a high level of protection for occasional humidity, however wool is a natural fibre and remains susceptible to mildew growth if left humid and unmaintained for protracted periods.

Natural fibres, such as wool and silk, are prone to absorb moisture from the atmosphere, particularly in humid weather and uncontrolled environments, thus carpets should be left totally uncovered and allowed to 'breathe'. Failure to do so, for example by covering under a water resistant sheet, will entrap moisture caused by condensation build-up; mildew may also develop causing irremovable discolouration and damage within the base of the carpet pile and emitting an unpleasant odour. Other variables can increase the risk of mildew damage such as airborne contaminants, dirt or dust and a sudden unusual increase in humidity and condensation due to environment conditions.

Experience has shown that when installed carpets are covered with a temporary protective covering, the risk of mildew developing is an increased possibility. In an ideal situation, therefore, we would not recommend covering a carpet. In practice, however, we know that considerable damage can be inflicted on a carpet when work takes place after the installation, and the protective covering is the only option. Products used include woven polypropylene fabrics, PVC, polythene sheeting and hardboard. Alternative materials may include other woven fabrics (cotton dust sheets) where only light work is being done over the carpets and no wet spillages are expected. Flame retardant versions can be obtained.

Our Recommendations

1. Where a protective covering has to be used, choose a breathable covering if possible.
2. Avoid storing or covering the open carpet for long periods of time.
3. If the carpet has to be covered for extended periods of time it would be beneficial to remove the covering periodically, to allow the carpet to be aired and vacuumed.
4. Where possible, avoid completely sealing the carpet under an impervious covering.
5. Choose a covering strong enough to withstand work traffic; hardboard can be used where wheeled traffic is likely.
6. When the covering is removed allow time for evaporation and pile recovery, vacuum the carpet thoroughly with an upright cleaner, which incorporates a brushing action (however, avoid using rotating brushes on silk or delicate fibres).

NB. adhesive tapes used to fix the protective covering to the carpet pile should be special no-residue versions. Poor quality tape or protective cover adhesives can leave a tacky residue once removed, which can later attract air-borne dust or dirt leaving visible soiling and surface marking.

In order to reduce the buildup of dirt and moisture it is also important to adopt a routine cleaning and carpet care program (please refer to the TAI PING Maintenance guide for further information).

To conclude, while we recommend taking every effort to reduce the risks of damage to the carpets during works, we do not recommend covering the carpet for an extended length of time and any reaction or effect to the carpets caused by protection cannot be considered as just claim on the given period of Guarantee of 'Wear Performance'.