



The IICRC Consumer Floor and Furnishings Care Information Tip Sheet - Four Examples of Pile Distortion Issues

Four Examples of Pile Distortion Issues:

Carpet and rug textures and colors can appear to be inconsistent. It may look like the carpet is one color in an area and different in another and "change" when you look at it from a different angle. There are several reasons this could occur, some of which are natural characteristics, and some develop from age or wear. For example:

1. **Shading**

Carpet shading is a normal characteristic of cut pile carpets, especially those with a smooth pile such as velvets and Saxony plush. Carpet shading is considered an aesthetic quality of fine carpet and is not considered a defect. Shading is caused by light reflecting off of tufts that bend differently due to footprints, vacuuming, etc.

2. **Pooling**

Carpet/Rug pooling, also referred to as watermarking, occurs when an area of carpet fibers lay in a different direction than the rest of the fibers. Carpet pooling will often occur adjacent to trafficked areas, but occasionally pooling will occur in the nearly new carpet where little foot traffic has taken place. To better understand the effect of pooling, study the pooled area(s) from two opposing sides of the room, paying attention to how the darker and lighter areas reverse themselves as you move back and forth.

[Click here](#) for more information on shading and pooling.

3. **Fading**

According to the IICRC S100 Cleaning Standards, your carpet's fading issues can result from several conditions:

- a. Light, whether incandescent, fluorescent, or indirect and especially direct sunlight, all sources can have an effect on dyes after a period of prolonged exposure;
- b. Soil, especially oily soil compositions, tends to affect dyes.
- c. Vapor (i.e., fume) or ozone, atmospheric gases passing over or through fibers for prolonged periods, can have an effect on dyes. Some subfloor types and carpet underlayment's can contain damaging fumes as well

4. **Shedding**

Are you noticing loose carpet fibers on your floor or in your vacuum? This is normal and does not mean that you have a defective carpet. Cut pile carpet is typically made from fibers 2-4 inches in length, which are spun together to create a soft, luxurious look and feel. In the manufacturing process, these yarns are secured to the carpet within the latex backing. The short-end pieces of these fibers do not always get anchored into the latex and will become detached during vacuuming. Depending on the density of the carpet, this "shedding" can last up to 2 years (or more with wool carpet) and is not a cause for concern.

Care Tips:

1. Consider having UV-resistant film applied to windows that experience prolonged sunlight exposure to help with fading.
2. Close drapes or curtains to reduce sun exposure.
3. Regular scheduled professional cleaning of fading-prone areas
4. If your vacuum cleaner regularly pulls out fibers from your carpet, you may be running the brush roll too low, or the roll's brushes may be too stiff for your carpet type.

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