



The Floor is Yours



Check-up on DESSO Carpet

Dedicated to Healthcare

CONTENTS

CLEANER AIR QUALITY - CARING ABOUT ALLERGIES

THE DESSO HEALTHCARE CARPET

CARPETS ARE THE MOST ECONOMIC FLOORING SOLUTION

CARING FOR EACH AND EVERYONE - CARPET IMPROVES ACOUSTICS

QUALITY OF LIFE ON DESSO CARPET IS PROVEN MUCH BETTER THAN ON HARD FLOOR

CARING FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND DEMENTIA PATIENTS

SUMMARY

DESSO
The Floor is Yours



This book is printed entirely on RePrint paper, a paper made with post-consumer recycled fibers and manufactured with Green-e certified non-polluting, wind-generated electricity. The paper is certified under the Blue Angel Environmental Standard for Printing and Writing Paper, and is certified by standards, which promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests. Lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium are not used in our coating formula. Soy, non-petroleum based inks were utilized throughout this report.

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior written consent of the copyright owner. The information presented in this document does not form part of any quotation or contract, is believed to be accurate and reliable and may be changed without notice. No liability will be accepted by the publisher for any consequence of its use. Publication thereof does not convey nor imply any license under patent- or other industrial or intellectual property rights. DESSO © 2008. Check-up on DESSO Carpet - Concept and Design by ElcaMedia.com

“AIR QUALITY IS CLEANER
IN A HOSPITAL THAT IS CARPETED”

YES NO

YES! DESSO carpet captures the dirt that is floating through the air and therefore keeps the dust particles away from the breathing area.



CARING ABOUT ALLERGIES

A huge advantage of carpeting for all residents, patients, and allergy sufferers is that it reduces the level of fine dust particles emitted into the air far more effectively than hard floor surfaces.

This was confirmed in a 2005 study by the German Allergy and Asthma Society (DAAB), which found that carpet dramatically reduces the fine dust loads in interior spaces.

Fine dust can present a significant health hazard – especially for allergy sufferers – as particles may cause irritation when they are breathed in and enter into the respiratory tract. Other pollutants attached to these particles, including allergens, may then enter deeper into the lungs.

Across the decades a lot of emphasis has been placed on the continuous improvement of our outdoor air quality – so it makes sense to consider the air quality of our indoor environment, where we spend the vast majority of our time!

Carpet retains and binds to the dust so effectively that it is 15 times more efficient in keeping the air clean. The fine particulate load in carpeted rooms is therefore significantly lower than in rooms with hard floors – around 50% lower according to the DAAB study.

The overall contaminant level within the carpeted rooms air is reduced because other harmful substances, such as allergens, are bound within the fine dust particles.

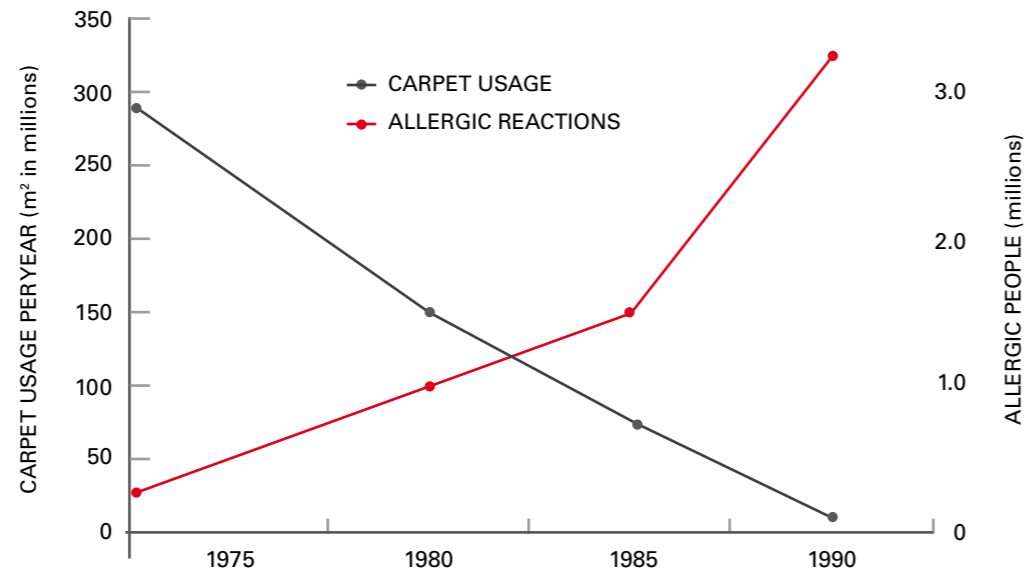
Recent research is reversing previous damaging assumptions about a possible link between carpet and allergens. The new research shows that people who use carpets in their bedrooms are less prone to allergies.

Reports from Sweden during the 1970's claimed that carpet was a source of harmful contaminants that could trigger allergic reactions. Carpet's share of the Swedish floor covering market subsequently dropped to just 2 per cent by 1992.

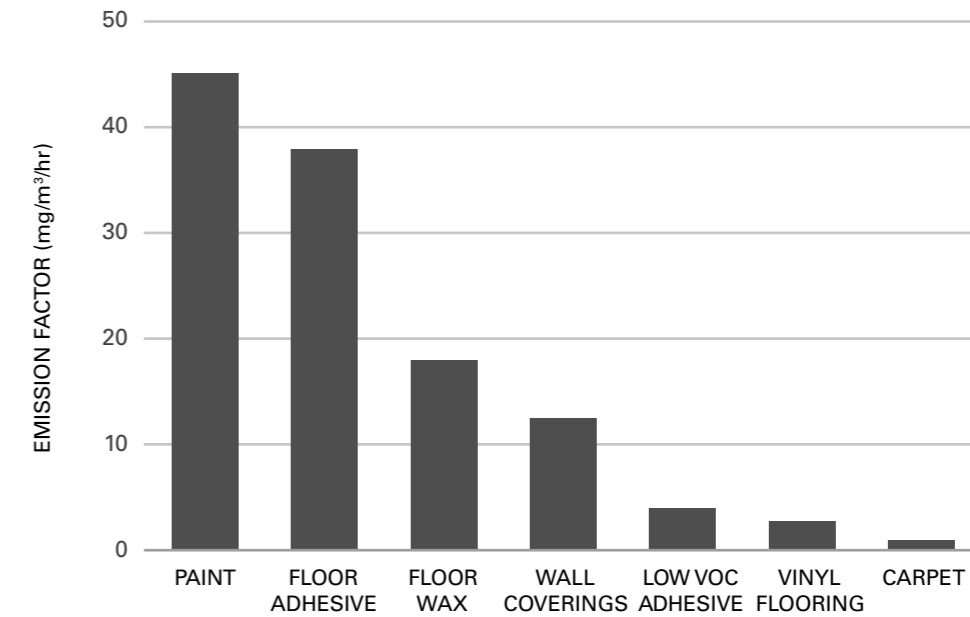
In the early 1990's, two professors from the Swedish Institute for Fibre and Polymer Research published research that significantly challenged the previous notion from the 1970's.

They found that occurrences of allergic reactions in the general population had increased dramatically since 1975 - as Swedish consumers and officials reduced their use of carpet!

CARPET USAGE & ALLERGIC REACTIONS IN SWEDEN



VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOC'S)
EMISSIONS FACTORS OF SELECTED INTERIOR
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS



NOTE: *DESSO recommends Low VOC Adhesive.*

DESSO carpet emits minimal levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). These are the chemical by-products of interior design and maintenance materials. Hard surface flooring, on the other hand, causes significantly higher spikes in VOC emissions – especially if the surface is coated with floor wax.



“CARPET IS LESS HYGIENIC
THAN HARD FLOOR”

YES NO

A horizontal survey bar consisting of a red bar on the left, two red-outlined square checkboxes in the center, and a red bar on the right. The word 'YES' is positioned above the first checkbox, and the word 'NO' is positioned above the second checkbox. Both checkboxes are currently empty.

NO! DESSO has specifically developed an advanced carpet designed to meet the exact hygiene and cleaning requirements of hospitals and care homes.



Waiting Room - Harborough Field Surgery

THE DESSO HEALTHCARE CARPET

The DESSO Healthcare carpet boasts many special advantages which allows it to be quickly and easily cleaned over its entire area using approved cleaning agents. Because the drying time is extremely short, all types of everyday stain can be swiftly and effortlessly removed.

The carpets are also made from Solution-dyed fibres in which the pigment is insolubly integrated into the fibre during the manufacturing process – rather than being coated on to the exterior of the fibre as in conventional processes.

The result of this technique is that the fibres of the DESSO Healthcare carpet remain absolutely colour-fast, being resistant to disinfectants and to cleaning agents containing chlorine. The durability of the fibres results in an exceptionally long life, and the carpet enjoys excellent recovery characteristics in response to pressure points and heavy use.

3

“CARPET IS MORE EXPENSIVE
THAN HARD FLOOR”

YES NO

NO! Life cycle costs of installing and maintaining carpet are more economical than those of hard surface flooring.



CARPETS ARE THE MOST ECONOMIC FLOORING SOLUTION

The special cross-section of the fibre hides soiling, ensures that the colours do not yellow with age, and prevents fading when exposed to sunlight. The high durability and excellent recovery properties of the fibres ensure that the carpet will look as good as ever, even after many years of service.

LIGHT TO MEDIUM TRAFFIC AREAS	CARPET	HARD FLOOR
Costs of cleaning, installation and maintenance for 22 years, including labour, cleaning supplies, equipment, and equipment maintenance (per m ²)*	€ 12,08	€ 17,50

HEAVY TRAFFIC AREAS	CARPET	HARD FLOOR
Costs of cleaning, installation and maintenance for 22 years, including labour, cleaning supplies, equipment, and equipment maintenance (per m ²)*	€ 12,95	€ 27,49

*1 replacement in 11 years.



“CARPET CAN ACCELERATE
THE RECUPERATION PROCESS OF PATIENTS”

YES NO

A horizontal red bar spans across the middle of the page. In the center of this bar, there are two red-outlined square checkboxes. Above the left checkbox is the word 'YES' and above the right checkbox is the word 'NO'.

- YES!**
- The DESSO Healthcare carpet also provides a high standard of comfort to ensure that patients feel at home and are able to recover in a relaxing and pleasant environment.
 - Normal speech can easily echo throughout the entire building, but the installation of carpet makes sound control both simple and economical to achieve.



CARING FOR EACH AND EVERYONE - CARPET IMPROVES ACOUSTICS

The DESSO Healthcare carpet range has been developed to harmonise and comply with the modern world's ever-increasing knowledge in the areas of practical care-giving and perceptual psychology.

The attractive and comfortable DESSO Healthcare carpet will help to improve the quality of life for all those who use it. The carpet contributes to a reassuring and relaxing atmosphere, so assisting and enhancing any process of convalescence.

The subdued patterns attractively complement interior designs without overpowering them. In addition to this, carpets play an important role in reducing the level of noise which may be created by a host of everyday sounds including: footsteps, trolleys, radios, televisions and conversations.



“CARPET IS LESS SUITABLE FOR WALKING FRAMES AND TROLLEYS THAN HARD FLOOR”



- NO!**
- Out of a group of 27 patients who fell on carpet, 4 received injuries.
 - Out of a group of 186 patients who fell on vinyl flooring, 169 received injuries.
 - In another study, 58 elderly hospital patients walked along a 10m length of carpeted corridor and a 10m length of vinyl-tiled corridor with the walking frame and their gait speed and step length were significantly greater on the carpeted than on the vinyl surface.



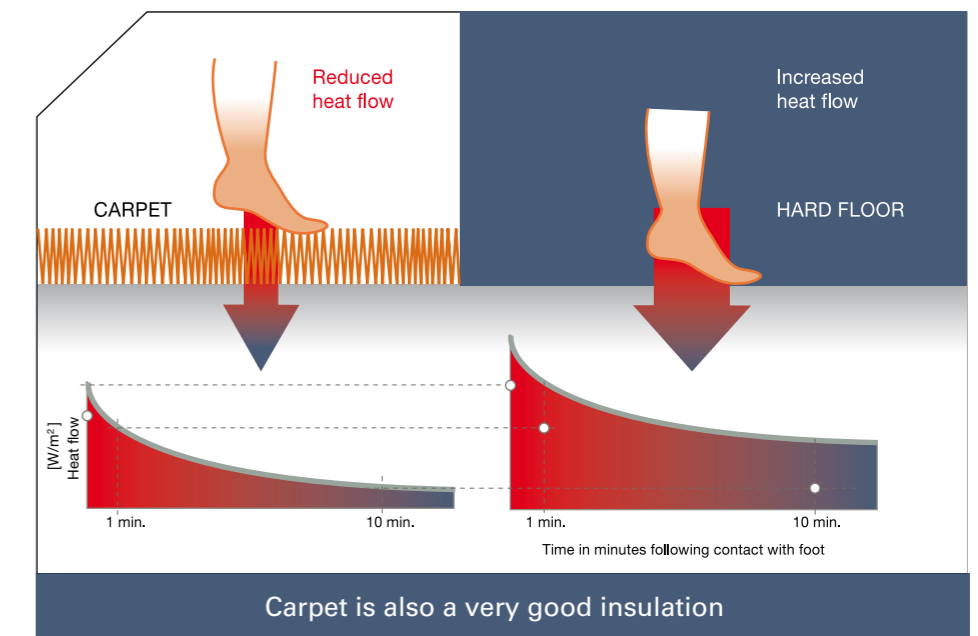
QUALITY OF LIFE ON DESSO CARPET IS PROVEN MUCH BETTER THAN ON HARD FLOOR

This page looks at the role of carpeted and vinyl floors in relation to the injuries older patients receive when falling in hospital.

A random sample of 225 accident forms were analysed retrospectively and separated into two patient groups. Out of the group of patients that fell on carpet, only 17% of whom sustained injuries, while the patients in the group that fell on vinyl, 46% of whom sustained injuries. Statistical analysis indicated that there is less than a 1% probability that the reduced rate of injury for those patients who fell on carpets was contributed to chance. The implications of these findings on the type of flooring provided in hospital wards for older people have been discussed, and suggestions are made for further research.

ADDITIONAL COST SAVINGS:

During wintertime 2% of energy costs is saved with carpet compared to the average of all hard floorings.



“CARPET CAN MAKE LIFE EASIER
FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
AND DEMENTIA PATIENTS”

YES NO

YES! Many patterns in the DESSO carpet range for Healthcare were created in accordance with expert recommendations in the field of care facility furnishings, and are especially suitable for visually impaired residents, and for dementia patients.





CARING FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND DEMENTIA PATIENTS

The specific patterns in the DESSO Healthcare carpet range were created in accordance with expert recommendations in the field of care facility furnishings, and are especially suitable for visually impaired residents and dementia patients.

The designs are comprised of low-contrast small element patterns because of the difficulty dementia patients have with viewing contrast. At times, patients may perceive large high-contrast patterns as obstacles, which is why our carpets are specifically designed to cater to those needs. Because the use of bold colours compensates for the “greying” of colour perception the carpet can therefore reinforce walking stability by making users feel safer and more secure. Also, there is no pale blue, which can cause a “watery” impression that impairs sure-footedness (often the case with hard floors).

The carpets embrace warm colours and natural tones, and are carefully based on 1960’s styles that are likely to appear familiar and reassuring to today’s senior citizens, while also appealing to the general public.

SUMMARY

The DESSO Healthcare carpets offer many advantages of comfort, hygiene, and convenience to the healthcare sector. This includes:

- The first carpet for hospitals and care areas to meet all hygiene and cleaning requirements
- An attractive, homely, and comfortable atmosphere to assist recuperation
- Assures better and more intensive rest, providing higher quality of sleep due to noise reduction
- Non-slip surface for greater sure-footedness
- Reduced injury risk should a fall occur
- Elastic walking properties to minimise the strain on joints
- Walking frame friendliness
- Comfortable walking environment
- Durable and colour fast
- Hides soiling, easy to clean, and quick drying
- Absorbs noise
- Special designs for the visually impaired and dementia patients
- No irritating light reflections when wet
- Improves indoor air quality by reducing level of fine dust particles and allergens
- Easy to install, and low maintenance costs

“All DESSO Healthcare carpets are particularly suitable for allergy sufferers.”

“The designs and colour combinations can be ideally suited to senior living and long-term care facilities - especially for dementia patients”



About DESSO

DESSO has been manufacturing and marketing carpet for almost 80 years, and during that time it has earned a fine reputation as a reliable partner and creative designer. Today, it has three factories in Europe and specialist customer service centres throughout Europe, as well as in America, Asia, South Africa, the Middle East and Australia. CARPETECTURE® is a powerful example of the DESSO commitment to creative carpet design and its dedication to answer the needs of architects, interior designers, building owners, and end users. DESSO products can be found in offices, public buildings, banks, schools, universities, retail shops, and hospitals. Among its many highly valued customers are distinguished companies such as ABN AMRO, Deutsche Bank, Hilton Hotels, KLM and Virgin Atlantic.

Corporate Responsibility/ Cradle to Cradle

DESSO has been taking to safeguard the environment for many years – long before it became popular to do so. With an ISO 14001 environmental quality accreditation, regular on-site checks by independent institutes ensure the best possible environmental production methods. In addition, every DESSO carpet and carpet tile carries a unique GuT test number that proves it passes GuT tests for contamination and emission. We also have several initiatives for re-using carpet to ease the burden on landfill, and our ongoing research programme for environmental awareness and recycling covers both product and packaging. DESSO continuously seeks to improve the environmental attributes of our products through product design development programmes whilst our manufacturing plants evaluate energy use and a continuous reduction in waste and pollution as well as process improvement.

For more information visit our website www.desso.com

DESSO Headquarters

Taxandriaweg 15
5142 PA Waalwijk
The Netherlands
T. +31 (0) 416 684 100
F. +31 (0) 416 335 955
E. info@desso.com



The Floor is Yours