

## **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT POLYESTER CARPET**

**(also called P.E.T.)**

### **SmartStrand also called Sonona or PTT also very similar characteristics**

Polyester is usually manufactured from recycled pop bottles and SmartStrand is usually made from corn.

Don't be fooled by the softness of this fiber. This is a very soft synthetic fiber that holds its color well; however it is difficult to keep clean and has very poor resiliency. Traffic areas will usually mat down quickly and soon afterwards will never return to its original appearance. When new, polyester looks great and feels so soft and wonderful, but it won't be too long before it doesn't.

Sales people often recommend this type of carpet to consumers without sufficient fiber knowledge or experience. Because polyester is so inexpensive to manufacture and higher profits using this fiber, carpet manufacturers continually try to enhance carpets made with polyester hoping that they can create a carpet that wears well. So far they have had limited success.

Because prices are lower for polyester carpets you may be tempted to buy a carpet made from polyester, just be sure that your expectations are not very high. Generally, I do not recommend buying carpets made from polyester fibers to those who need a carpet that wears well and resists matting and crushing.

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## **POLYESTER**

Although it has some excellent qualities, and is a great fiber for clothing, it does have some limiting factors when used in carpet.

It is not resistant to oily stains, and in fact an oily spill or spot left without proper cleanup can oxidize and even chemically bond with and become part of the fiber. As a professional, you need to know that some of these spots just won't come out.

Six-month-old polyester was an owner's nightmare. Due to loss of twist and crimp, long straight fibers were left in the traffic areas, which caused matting and tangling and destroyed the original look of the carpet. This is a characteristic of polyester, not a defect.

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