

# Checklist

## SHOPPING FOR GREEN CARPET

To reduce the environmental impacts of your carpet choice, consider the following when it comes time to buy:

- Buy refurbished carpet whenever possible.
- Specify carpet with high overall recycled content (in the face fiber and backing), preferably post-consumer. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) designate a 25 -100 % total recovered materials content (all post-consumer) for polyester carpet face fiber. The guidelines for nylon carpet are currently available only in draft form, but they recommend that the face fiber should have a total recovered materials content of 25-100% (1-100% of it post-consumer) and that the backing should be made of 100% recovered materials (with a post-consumer content of 35-70%).
- Ask whether environmental leasing or take-back programs are provided, to ensure that the carpet will be replaced only as necessary and reused or recycled by the producer.
- Use carpet tiles where appropriate to extend the life of the installed floorcovering.
- Buy carpet made from recyclable materials and likely to be easily accepted for recycling under existing programs. Carpet containing nylon 6 face fiber and vinyl-backed carpets are currently recyclable. No recycling programs currently exist for polyester carpet.
- Consider purchasing carpet made of wool or other natural fibers if your primary concern is the use of non-renewable resources.
- Buy carpet that is solution-dyed.
- Buy carpet that meets CRI Indoor Air Quality standards (Green Label program).
- Ensure that low VOC adhesives (CRI certified) are used during installation.
- Buy a carpet product that is consistent with the desired performance level, expected use pattern, and replacement schedule.
- Select an appropriate color for the carpet application. Light colors tend to get soiled easily and may require the frequent use of harsh cleaning chemicals and/or replacement.

