



Carpet Recycling

CARE, the Carpet America Recovery Effort's objective is to divert 40% of all post consumer carpet from landfills by 2012. They expect 7 billion pounds to be generated in 2012, which would mean 2.8 billion pounds would need to be reused or recycled to meet their goal. Go to: www.carpetrecovery.org for more information.

Where to Recycle Unwanted Carpet:

- **Bro-Tex, Inc.** (Located in St. Paul): Bro-Tex is the only recycler of carpet in Minnesota. They inspect and test all carpet to determine what it can be made into. For a list of their drop-off locations and specifications for recycling carpet go to: <http://www.brotex.com/carpetrecycling.aspx>

How Carpet Recycling Works:

- Currently commercial carpet is more often recycled than residential carpet. Commercial carpet comes in larger sizes, higher volumes, and is usually the same resin type.
- Residential carpet comes in smaller sizes and a large variety of resin types. Some of these include: wool, polyolefin, and nylon.
- Carpet is inspected to make sure it is not wet or moldy before it is tested. Testing determines what type of resin the carpet is made of and that determines what the carpet can be made into.
- Several items carpet can be recycled into include: plastic resin for plastic parts or plastic lumber, plastic drainage pipe, acoustic matting, sorbent material for water pollutants, new carpet pad, new carpet, or it can even be used as an energy substitute for existing energy raw materials like coal and natural gas.

How Carpet Recycling Helps Minnesota's Environment:

- In 2005, Minnesotans discarded approximately 180,000 tons of carpet.
- Recycling 1,000 square yards of carpeting saves: 440 gallons of oil, 10 million Btu's of energy, and diverts 4,500 pounds of material from going to the landfill.
- Using recycled carpet plastic resins as raw materials for new products, reduces the need for other raw materials to be mined and processed. Using recycled materials also creates new markets and new jobs.

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