

How Flooring Selection Impacts Occupant Wellness: Hard Surfaces vs. Carpeting

It's important to consider the role that facility design and maintenance has on indoor air quality (IAQ) and occupant wellbeing:



90% Americans spend almost all their time indoors.¹



Concentrations of air pollutants indoors can be much higher than outdoors.

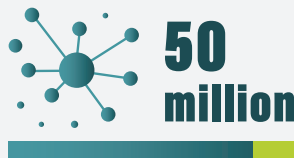
2-5x

Allergies and asthma are prevalent issues affecting the U.S. population:



1 in 13

The number of Americans who suffer from asthma.²



50 million

More than 15% of the U.S. population has allergies.³



\$18 billion

Allergies are the 6th leading cause of chronic disease in America with an annual cost exceeding \$18 billion.⁴

Carpet plays a critical role as an air filter by trapping dust, pollen and other particles, taking them out of the breathing zone until they are removed through vacuuming.⁴



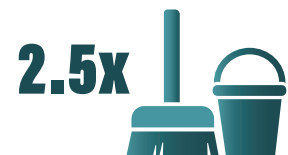
90-95%

The percentage of dry soil that can be removed from carpet by vacuuming.⁵



50%

More than half the amount of dust is reduced from air in a room that is carpeted compared to a room with hardwood floors.⁶



2.5x

More than double the amount of cleaning is required for hard surface floors than carpeted floors.⁷

To improve IAQ and keep building occupants comfortable, healthy and happy, implement a comprehensive carpet care program with:



- Preventative matting at entrances and exits
- An effective vacuum with a HEPA filter
- Low-moisture encapsulation equipment and chemistry

To learn more about carpet care the Whittaker way, contact **800.422.7686** or sales@whittakersystem.com.

¹ Environmental Protection Agency: <http://ow.ly/50q350DrMib>

² United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://ow.ly/iSKI50DpvAG>

³ Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America: <http://ow.ly/b27H50DpvD9>

⁴ Lang, Susan S. 2001. "Carpets in Schools Don't Compromise Air Quality. Human Ecology quality. (Spring) 29: 24

⁵ Carpet and Rug Institute: <http://ow.ly/wcgu50DuzPd>

⁶ Carpet Institute of Australia Limited: <http://ow.ly/MeYF50DqKah>

⁷ Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration: <https://bit.ly/2N9OXXt>