



Carpet protection is required per the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) and most manufacturers. The type of carpet protection recommended by CRI and the manufacturers is a non-staining building paper. Some projects use a plastic film with adhesive on the back side. The more we understand when the plastic protection can and **should not be used** will help avoid costly mistakes down the road. Common questions I receive are how often to change the plastic protection, when can it be applied, can I apply it on any surface, and, will the protection void the warranty. These are discussed in this Construction Excellence Bulletin.
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Bulletin is based on The Carpet & Rug Institute Standard Installation CRI 104-Sept 2015

- ❑ Self-adhering plastic films may leave residues that result in rapid soiling after removal.
- ❑ If self-adhering plastic is used on natural carpet, the carpet will have dreadful “pilling”, or fluffy particles, on the carpet surface.
- ❑ **PLASTIC COVERINGS OF ANY TYPE WILL TRAP MOISTURE, RETARD ADHESIVE CURING, AND MAY PROMOTE ORGANIC GROWTH.**
- ❑ Plastic carpet film protection adhesive residue damage is caused by the following factors:
 - Product was left on longer than the usage rating.
 - Installation on wet or damp carpet.
 - Exposure to extremely high temperatures.
- ❑ Plastic adhesive film is generally easily puncturable, which will damage the carpet without knowing about it until it is too late.

❑ AECOM Quality does NOT recommend plastic - Kraft or Ram Board is best

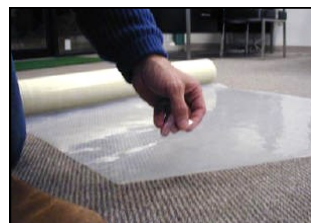
- ❑ Concrete floors can present unacceptable moisture conditions. Always test via ASTM F2170 or F1869 (best for post tensioned concrete), and ASTM F710. Always review flooring manufacturer instructions and preparation guides.
- ❑ Rising moisture from concrete that is prevented from escaping with plastic sheeting may cause discoloration of carpet fibers.
- ❑ Replace carpet protection weekly (minimum) in high traffic areas, high heat/direct sunlight spaces and exterior access areas.
- ❑ Before applying any carpet protection, properly vent the space for 72 hours to allow for adhesive vapors to properly dissipate.
- ❑ If the carpet was cleaned before applying protection, allow at least 24 hours after the carpet has been dried.
- ❑ If using self-adhered plastic film that has been accepted by the manufacturer on **stairways**, check when ordering carpet protection whether it is reverse wound or regular wound. This will make a difference in how you roll out the film (which side is sticky).
- ❑ Reverse wound is where the adhesive side is on the outside of the roll, so when you unroll the film, it will stick right to the carpet (adhesive side down).
- ❑ If plastic is acceptable, the films will have a glue-based adhesive or have a water-based adhesive. The water-based adhesive allows for residue to be easily removed with water.
- ❑ When carpet is applied to new concrete or floor leveling - **allow 30 days after adhesive has cured to apply any plastic type protection, if allowed.**



- ❑ Never apply film on hard surfaces such as hardwood, ceramic tile, rubber, linoleum, VCT, marble, etc..
- ❑ Never apply film on any natural fibers such as wool.
- ❑ Never apply a film in high humidity areas, such as basement spaces or offices in a natatorium.
- ❑ Test carpet protection in a small area for 48 hours...and review for disturbance of carpet fibers.
- ❑ If plastic protection with adhesive was used, contact carpet protection manufacturer for proper adhesive removal from carpet.



There are different requirements for synthetic carpeting versus natural fiber based carpet, such as Berber or Wool. Do not use any type of adhesive backed material on natural carpet fiber—the adhesive will likely cause pilling on the carpet.



CRI (Carpet and Rug Institute) cautions the use of plastic film due to improper use

Recommendation:

1. Allow adhesive to properly cure and ventilate for 72 hrs.
2. USE KRAFT PAPER OR RAM BOARD (OR SIMILAR PRODUCT WITH NO WRITING ON THE CARPET SIDE)
3. ALWAYS review protection of manufacturer time restriction requirements and review environmental conditions to determine the length of time down. Recommend a maximum of one week or less depending on use.
4. Always clean the carpet once the protection is removed to properly remove all adhesive from the carpet.