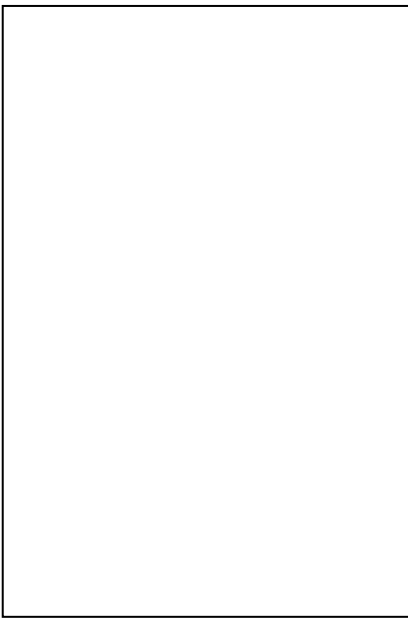
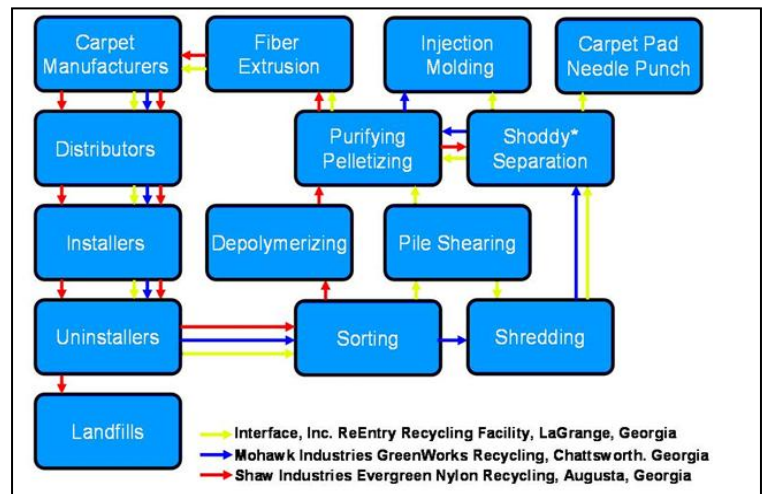


The Commercial Flooring Report

CARPET RECYCLING EFFORTS

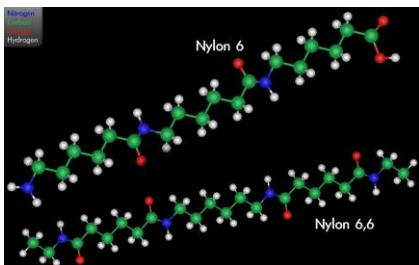


Each year approximately 5 billion pounds of old carpet is removed from residential and commercial buildings and sent to landfills across the United States. This disposal of carpet contributes to the loss of landfill space, as well as the loss of valuable natural resources for ours and future generations. Since carpet is produced from petroleum based products, one gallon of oil is lost for every three square yards that is put in landfills across the country. The Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) is working with its partners across the U.S. to develop solutions to reclaim the material for reuse.



When considering carpet recycling and how it works, it is important to understand carpet is a synthetic material made from oil. Once the leap is made from looking at carpet as a beautiful floor covering to seeing it as a plastic pellet that is heated and stretched to make the carpet, one can begin to appreciate how carpet is able to be recycled. People do not turn their noses up when using recycled bottles, paper, or clothing, but they oftentimes object to using “old carpet” in recycled products. “The objections end users may have concerning the use of recycled carpet in products are due to a lack of education about the process. For the majority of products made from old carpet, the recycling process requires the recovered carpet be subjected to high heat which melts the material so that it can be used in a new application”, explains Georgina Sikorski, Executive Director of the Carpet America Recovery Effort, otherwise known as CARE. Similar to other plastic materials that are recycled, carpet is purified during the process to remove any contaminants which may be in the material.

When recycling carpet, it is important to distinguish the type of plastics in the carpet. In the United States, the majority of carpets are made from Nylon 6, Nylon 6.6,



Polypropylene (PP), and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET). Plastic identification of each of these polymers is necessary because specific plastics lend themselves to particular recycling options due to their various chemical properties. For example, Nylon 6.6 is a well-suited plastic for under the hood automotive industry applications because of its ability to maintain integrity during extreme heat, whereas, because of its distinct properties, Nylon 6 is often processed into parts for inside the vehicle.

CARE's 2009 Annual Report points out that Nylon 6 and Nylon 6.6 represent 80% of all carpet diverted from landfills in 2008. The driving forces behind Nylon's reclamation percentage are: first, the available end-markets for recycled fiber as well as the market share of carpet sold in the U.S. by fiber type. In 2009, CARE reported 311 million pounds of post-consumer carpet was diverted from landfills through recycling and reuse. Of that amount, 246 million pounds were a direct result of recycling.

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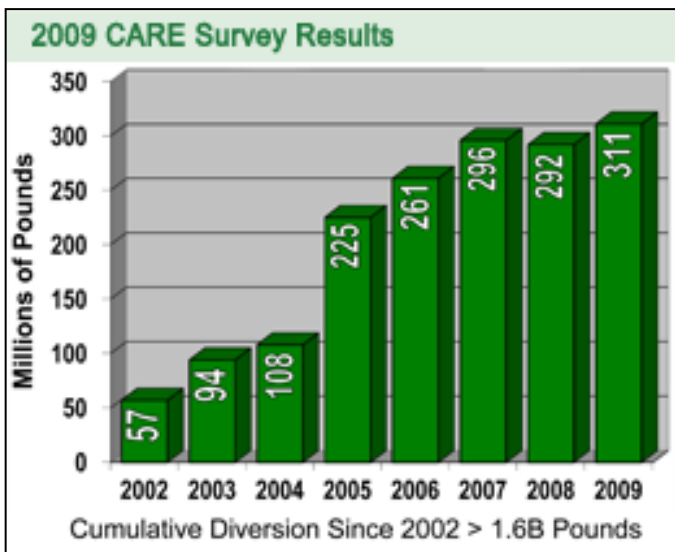


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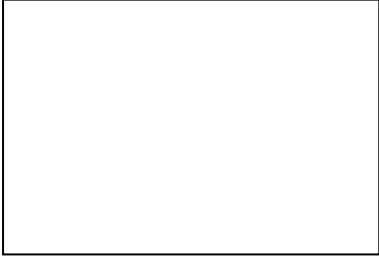
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In their efforts to protect the Gulf Coast from the recent mammoth runaway oil slick, emergency responders turned to an array of standard defenses such as booms and industrial skimmers.

But as part of their coastal defenses, officials in Walton County, Florida, also employed tried and true technologies in non-traditional ways. One standout example is the use of GeoHay, a highly absorbent recycled carpet product, made up of all types of carpet fiber, as a defense for the slick that threatened the Florida coastline.



Designed for erosion control, GeoHay works by allowing water to flow through its structure while trapping suspended sediments such as oil. Created from a product that was previously headed to the landfill, GeoHay looks much like a traditional hay bale.

GeoHay works by allowing water to flow through its fibrous structure while trapping suspended sediments such as topsoil and construction debris. GeoHay is substituted for the staked hay bales and silt fences traditionally used to meet the permit requirements for temporary erosion control at construction sites, but, unlike hay bales, GeoHay's man-made material construction minimizes the threat of non-native plant species being introduced into pristine ecosystems. GeoHay is reusable and does not fall apart or decompose, so it can be repeatedly moved to new construction sites and erosion hotspots. This material is highly absorbent and non-biodegradable, strong and durable.

“GeoHay is an excellent example of recycled carpet product coming onto the market to fill a critical need,” said Georgina Sikorski, executive director of Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). “Even though GeoHay was designed for erosion control and not for absorbing oil, it makes perfect sense to use it that way.”

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EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CARPET RECYCLING INDUSTRY:

These are the most recent governmental initiatives affecting carpet recycling. California's recently-enacted AB 2398 Carpet Stewardship legislation, Carpet as An Alternative Fuel (CAAF), the emerging Canadian Carpet Reclamation Effort (CCRE), Plastic Specification Sheets, and the increasing market outlets that use post-consumer carpet feedstock.

A whole new phase of carpet recycling was ushered in when California signed into law September 30, 2010, California's AB 2398, Carpet Stewardship Bill. The bill, which was sponsored by Assembly Speaker John A. Perez, (D-Los Angeles) represents new thinking in the area of product stewardship in that it incentivizes carpet recycling by rewarding those entrepreneurs and inventors who produce marketable products made from post-consumer carpet.

The bill generates revenue through an initial assessment of 5-cents per square yard of carpet sold in California. Further, manufacturers -either singly or as a group - will be required to establish a stewardship plan with the state for implementing carpet recycling. Stewardship plans will encompass consumer education efforts, the assessment of fees, and progress measurement and reporting.

To develop their required stewardship plan, manufacturers will work with California regulatory agencies with the help of the Carpet America Recovery Effort, or CARE. Founded in 2002, CARE is a non-profit organization comprising manufacturers, recycling entrepreneurs, and government environmental agencies that work to find market-based solutions for recycling carpet and diverting it from landfills. CARE is listed in the AB 2398 legislation as the carpet industry's designated stewardship organization.

CARE will begin working immediately with CalRecycle to develop a stewardship plan that will increase carpet recycling through the funding mechanism that is established in the bill. The Carpet Stewardship Bill is unique from other Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation in that it provides monetary incentives for entrepreneurs and investors that create marketable products from old California carpet.

Recycling floor covering material is essential and more than that, it is going to become a standard practice for floor covering contractors and end users. Since every building has some type of floor covering material it is imperative it be kept out of landfills and put to some other use. Whether that use is a re-purposing of the product, reuse by flooring manufacturers, a source of fuel when incinerated or materials such as GeoHay.



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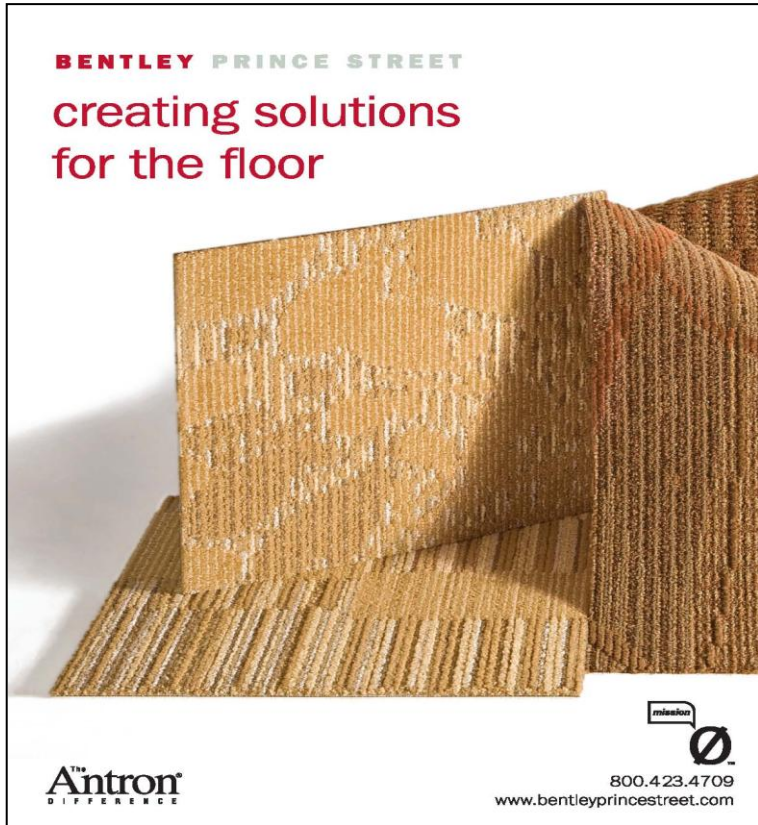
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U.S. Patent 7,231,815. Additional patents pending


It is incumbent upon building owners, architects, facilities managers, general contractors and flooring contractors to work together to insure a responsible collection of old flooring materials is part of every project. For information on what to do with carpet see the information below. For hard surface materials contact those particular associations, such as RFCI – The Resilient Floorcovering Institute or CTA – The Ceramic Tile Association.

CARE is a joint public-private sector venture that encourages the reuse and recycling of spent carpet. In 2010, CARE members diverted more than 311 million pounds of post-consumer carpet from landfills. Of that amount nearly 80 percent was recycled back into carpet and other consumer products. For more information visit www.carpetrecovery.org.



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Systems like EnviroSTIX for hard surface and hard backed flooring materials and FreeLay for carpet are systems that will help prevent the failure of flooring installations. There is more technology coming, most of which we are involved with. We'll keep you informed to help you. In the meantime understand that temperature and humidity have a profound effect on flooring materials and the integrity of their installation. If you control the temperature and humidity in the space it will maintain the integrity of the floor covering and the installation.

If you're attending Surfaces 2011 in Las Vegas at Mandalay Bay be sure and register for the Floor Covering Inspector Symposium on January 24 and 25, 2011.

This two day symposium, hosted by Larry Cooper of Textile Consultants and Lew Migliore of LGM and Associates, was developed for professional Floor Covering Inspectors, Retailers, Distributors, Manufacturers, Installers, Specifiers, Architects, Designers and related floor covering interests. The presentations will be in both lecture and hands-on format. The goal of the Symposium is to advance the knowledge and professionalism of those whose business is impacted and influenced by all aspects of the floor covering industry, including both hard and soft surfaces.

The presentations at the symposium have been developed to benefit the attendees with an increase in expertise and to help increase profits while reducing losses related to floor covering problems, concerns and complaints. Attendees will benefit from the advanced level of training by participating in the symposium. You don't have to be an inspector to attend as this program was designed with everyone in mind. You'll see and hear the latest information on floorcovering not available anywhere else.

Don't delay registering for this important event, as space is limited. See the registration link for pricing and hotel accommodations.

<http://www.surfaces.com/attendee/education-program/floor-covering-inspectors-symposium.asp> Call today for more information, 303-469-0306 x104 or go to our website and see the full program, www.floorcoveringinspectorssymposium.com The full program is also attached to this issue of the Commercial Flooring Report.

Floor Covering Inspectors Symposium (FCIS) – At Surfaces Inspections 2011 - Carpet and Hard Surface Flooring Industry

January 24 and 25, 2011

Register now for this two day symposium designed to give anyone involved in the floor covering and inspection service industry an opportunity to update their skills, learn some of the new techniques and hear the latest information available on soft and hard surface flooring. Our instructors are experts in the industry, known to bring excellence to the floor covering trade, through education and sharing of information.

Symposium attendees will qualify for two IICRC CEC credits. The symposium is being held at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in conjunction with Surfaces and begins prior to the opening of Surfaces, the floor covering industries premier floor covering event.

The symposium features the top presenters and leaders in the floor covering industry. Our hosts include **Larry Cooper, Textile Consultants (TCI)**, an inspector with 30 years experience, the producer and organizer of the Connections Events and IICRC Standards Consultant and **Lew Migliore LGM and Associates**, with over 39 years experience solving problems related to floor covering manufacturing, specification, installation, performance, use and maintenance. *Lew is the publisher of "The Commercial Flooring Report" distributed to over 300,000 readers worldwide and author of "The Claims File," in Floor Covering News.*

Our Instructors include: **Lew Migliore, LGM, Carey Mitchell, Shaw Industries, Peter Craig, Concrete Constructives, Dave Horan, ProFloor Services, Sim Crisler, LGM, Barry Costa, Aspire Educational Institute, and Vice Chairman of the IICRC S600 Carpet Installation Standard, Larry Cooper TCI, Dane Gregory, Interlink Supply and Robert Varden, Seam Master Industries.** There will also be presentations from **Dave Gobis, Ceramic Tile Expert, Mark Berndt, Interface America, Blaire Townsend, Velcro America, Devin Schlisner, Base King, Christopher Capobianco, Chairman FCICA, Jim Gould, President, Floor Covering Institute, Fred Gamble and More.**

This two day symposium was developed for professional Floor Covering Inspectors, Retailers, Distributors, Manufacturers, Installers, Specifiers, Architects, Designers and related floor covering interests. The presentations will be in both lecture and hands-on format. The goal of the Symposium is to advance the knowledge and professionalism of those whose business is impacted and influenced by all aspects of the floor covering industry, including both hard and soft surfaces.

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Don't delay registering for this important event, as space is limited. See the registration link for pricing and hotel accommodations. <http://www.surfaces.com/attendee/education-program/floor-covering-inspectors-symposium.aspx> Call us today for more information, 303-469-0306 x104 or go to our website and see the full program, www.floorcoveringinspectorsymposium.com

Day 1 - January 24, 2011

Carpet Inspection Related Topics:

8:30 am Welcome and Inspection Industry Update, Larry Cooper, Textile Consultants, The New ANSI/IICRC S800 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Carpet Inspection

Lew Migliore, LGM and Associates, What's New in Carpet Manufacturing?

- New tufting technology
- Lighter weight products
- New backings – see, feel and touch
- New fibers – Triexta
- Carpet Tile – What's new in carpet tile?

10:00 am Break

10:15 am New adhesive free installation technologies with demonstrations:

- **Velcro, Blaire Townsend**, Velcro America, Director Construction Strategic Business Unit
- **FreeLay, Mark Berndt**, Interface America, Director of Technical Services
- **EnviroSTIX, Devin Schlisner**, Base King, LLC, Director of Technical Services/Installation
- **New Seam Sealing Technology –**
 - **Glue 2 Seam Sealing Systems, Sim Crisler**, Vice President, LGM & Associates
 - **Kool Glide, Seam Master Industries, Robert Varden**, Technical Services

12:00 pm Lunch – Lunch 75 minutes – on your own...

1:15 pm An Update on the Progress of the New (ANSI) IICRC S600 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Carpet Installation – Barry Costa, S600 Vice Chairman, Aspire Educational Institute, including a discussion regarding issues on Pattern Match and Carpet Acclimation.

2:15 pm Field and Laboratory Testing: Carey Mitchell, Shaw Industries, Director of Technical Service, The Top Five Laboratory Tests for Carpet Inspectors

- How to order Lab Testing
- ADA requirements
- Tuft Bind – Loop and Cut Pile
- Filament Slippage
- Bundle Encapsulation
- Velcro Roller Testing
- Benzoyl Peroxide Testing

3:00 pm Break (15 minutes) Continuing program with hands on demonstrations

3:15 pm Hands on Repairs – Barry Costa, Aspire Educational Institute

4:00 pm Larry Cooper, Textile Consultants, Inspection Procedures – The tools and reporting Discussion about report writing – what does the manufacturer really want or need?

Day 2 – January 25, 2010

Hard Surface Flooring Related Topics:

8:30 am Welcome and Update on Daily Events, Lew Migliore, LGM & Associates

Lew will offer tips for strategic marketing initiatives for your business.

What's New in Hard Surface Flooring?

9:00 am Dave Horan, ProFloor Services, What's new with Laminates and Wood Floors and claims related topics?

9:50 am Break

10:05 am Christopher Capobianco, Chairman FCICA, "What's New in Resilient Flooring?"

10:50 am Dave Gobis, Ceramic Tile Consultant, Ceramic Tile installation, performance and problems

11:40 am Dane Gregory, Interlink Systems, Stone, Tile and Grout – Stone products, sealing and cleaning

12:30 pm Lunch

1:40 pm Peter Craig, Concrete Constructives, ICRI, Substrates, Concrete and Moisture Issues

2:30 pm Jim Gould, President, Floor Covering Institute, World Floor Covering Market – Globalization and Sourcing

3:20 pm Break

3:35 Fred Gamble, Inspection Procedures – The tools and reporting

Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

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Concrete Moisture Testing Technician Certification – Grade I

The International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) is pleased to introduce their Concrete Moisture Testing Technician Certification Program. The purpose of this program is to help improve the performance of concrete slab moisture testing in the U.S. to result in more consistent, accurate results that will help flooring manufacturers, architects, and contractors to make better decisions as to when a concrete floor is ready for a floor covering installation.

The certification program has 2 tiers. Tier 1 applicants are those who are not regularly engaged in moisture testing yet have an active interest in learning more about the tests, what the tests mean and how the tests should be performed. Tier 2 applicants are those who have applied for full certification. Both tiers require attendance at a 3 hour educational session followed by a written exam. Tier 2 full certification applicants will also be required to perform each of the 4 tests under the watchful eye of a qualified judge who will not provide any level of coaching. Prequalification for acceptance into full certification Tier 2 will be previous testing experience.

Tier 1 consists of a 3 hour educational session, a written exam and a training session. Those who complete the course and pass the exam will be issued an ICRI Letter of Education. Tier 2 consists of the same 3 hour educational session, the written exam and a field performance exam. By passing both the written and performance exams, an ICRI Concrete Moisture Testing Technician - Grade I certification will be issued to those who successfully demonstrate their knowledge and ability to properly perform and record the results of each of the four field moisture tests on hardened concrete. Those who pass both the written and performance exams will receive a certificate and wallet registration card.

Both the written exam and the field tests will be based on the following four (4) ASTM Standards, including all Annexes and Appendices:

F 710	Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring; Section 5.3 pH Testing
F 1869	Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride
F2170	Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using <i>in situ</i> Probes
F2420	Determining Relative Humidity on the Surface of Concrete Floor Slabs Using Relative Humidity Probe Measurement and Insulated Hood

ICRI Certification for Slab Moisture Testing Technician– Grade I shall be valid for a period of five [5] years from the date of completion of all applicable certification requirements.

The two day certification program begins on the first day with registration from 8 - 9 am, followed by the 3 hour educational session. There will be a provided lunch and study break from 12 – 1 pm followed by the written exam from 1-2 pm. Following the written exam Tier 1 students will attend a training session where they may receive or observe hands on training on how to properly perform each of the four tests.

For those registered for the Tier 2 Certification, day two begins at 8 am, and each applicant will be required to perform all 4 ASTM tests listed above.

ICRI currently has six Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification programs scheduled in 2010.

Atlanta - June 22-23

Denver - June 29-30

Chicago - September 14-15

Baltimore - October 5-6

San Diego - November 15-16

San Jose - November 18-16

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