

Mats help keep your carpet clean!

Today, you are here to learn about techniques to not only get a carpet clean, but to keep it clean. We wanted to take a few minutes this morning to talk to you about an often undervalued and underutilized piece of the puzzle. Mats!

Did you know?

- 70% to 80% of dust, dirt and grime in a building is tracked in from outside. Mats are the first line of defense to stop dirt and moisture from entering a building.
- In a 5-day work week, as few as 150 people entering your building can leave up to 1 pound of dirt, which can cost over \$30,000 annually to remove (*approximately \$600+ per pound of sand in building*)
- It is easier to clean a pound of dirt from a mat than if it's scattered around your building
- Mats improve indoor air quality
- Mats protect your facility
- Mats provide safety and anti-fatigue functions
- Mats protect customers and employees from slip and fall accidents

Types of Mats

Incorporating mats in your overall sustainability strategy is just plain smart. When selecting a mat, the type of mat is as important as the location. Each type of mat is designed to specialize in a specific function.

Let's break it down...

Mats are generally divided into three broad categories and six types or "functions". **Note:** *Some types of mats can be used in more than one category and some mats may contain multiple "functions" or be considered more than one type.*

3 Categories

Entrance Mats
Interior Mats
Employee/Area Mats

6 Types

Scraper
Scraper/Wiper
Wiper
Anti-Fatigue
Flow Through
Slip Resistant

Categories

Entrance Mats

An entrance mat has four jobs to do:

- Stop soil and water at the door
- Store soil and water for removal
- Minimize tracking of soil and water
- Provide a safe surface

Interior Mats

The main tasks for the interior mat are:

“Dust control” or “finishing” (*when used in conjunction with a scraper entrance mat in a soil management program.*)
Spot, spill and soil control in high-use areas such as vending machines, coffee service areas, copy machines, registration areas, etc.

Employee/Area Mats

Employee/Area Mats fall into a broad area of use: Traction Control, Floor Protection, and ergonomic concerns

Provide safe footing with minimum movement in any environment. Typical applications include outside entrances, ramps and floor areas where contaminants such as oil, grease or water are common. For maximum safety, these mats should be designed for minimum slippage on any surface. In addition, the mat surface should be constructed with maximum traction properties. Another use of industrial mats is to protect the floor from contaminants such as food and liquids.

Types

Scraper (Entrance Mat)

The scraper mat is your first line of defense in your battle of dirt and grime tracking into your building. (*Recommended for all outside entrances*) Scraper mats should always be used with other entrance mats that will provide wiping properties to remove fine soil and water from feet. (Recommended scraper/wiper or wiper types)

Scraper/Wiper (Entrance Mat)

The Scraper/Wiper mat gives you that one, two punch in knocking out the dirt before it infiltrates your building.

Wiper (Both Entrance and Interior Mat)

The wiper mat finishes the job of the scraper. Acts as the “end of the line” defense on the impurities and grime being brought in and tracked around the building

Anti-Fatigue (Interior Mat and Employee/Area Mat)

Anti-fatigue matting is used in a wide range of applications in order to provide the most ergonomic and safe environment for standing workers. Industrial, food production, critical environments, labs and pharmacies are just a few areas where use of *ergonomic* matting has increased worker comfort and productivity. These can be divided into further categories based on environment: Dry vs wet, heavy, medium or light duty. (Some manufacturers combine Anti-Fatigue and Flow through properties into one mat

Flow Through (Interior, Employee/Area, and Entrance)

As its name suggests the flow through mat’s primary function to allow heavy moisture to drain safely while providing a slip-resistant surface. These often possess anti-fatigue properties as well.

Slip Resistant (Employee/Area, Entrance, Interior)

Very few mats are manufactured today that are *not* “slip resistant” so it may be difficult to find one that isn’t also an anti-fatigue, or a good wiper mat option. Depending on the material used, some provide a better traction than others, more anti-fatigue, better scraping functionality ... and so on.

Purchase vs Rental:

An Industry standard: 4' x 6' floor mat costs about \$5.00 per week or about \$260.00 annually. Most floor mat rental companies require a 3 yr contract to lease their mats. Cost over a 3 yr contract can be well over \$700.00. Using more than one mat impacts the rental cost scenario even greater. Add the following fees and the real expense for floor mats starts to snowball: Delivery fees, Cleaning Charges, Fuel surcharges, Environmental Charges???

(For an on-site floor matting analysis, contact your Dalco Representative and let's do the math together)

Conclusion:

Hopefully, the information we've just shared with you will assist you as you make your next matting purchase. There are many, many options that are out there from nylon to wool, rubber to woven back, mats made from high performance technology, mats made out of a high percentage of recycled materials... The options are limitless! **The good thing is, you don't have to be the matting expert, your Dalco sales reps are here to help you develop and design your matting strategy.**