

# TOTAL HOME

*On-line*

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## Beautify your decor with carpeting

Carpeting is a key element that can make or break a room. Whether you are re-carpeting a room or starting from scratch, understanding a few basic elements about carpets will help

you to choose wisely for your style and budget.

"Choosing the right carpets for your home is an important decision," says Perry Galanis, Manager of Markville Carpets in Markham. "In some cases, flooring serves as a starting point for decorating an entire room and influences decorating decisions down the road."

If you plan to install carpeting yourself, Mr. Galanis advises consulting with a professional first. Unlike ceramic or vinyl flooring, a mistake in measurement with carpets can cost you hundreds of dollars. Also, make sure that you invest in a good underpad; it will protect your carpet from crushing (nylon construction in a carpet is the most crush-proof) which means greater longevity.

What carpets are popular these days? "We're seeing a lot of shags, friezes, hot

sisals and berbers," says Mr. Galanis. "These provide a nice, low-key appearance with earth tones and they can enhance any type of decor."

The traditional hard twist carpet is always popular because of its versatility and durability. These are good for high-traffic areas such as living rooms and hallways.

Here's a breakdown of carpet styles that will help you in your selection.

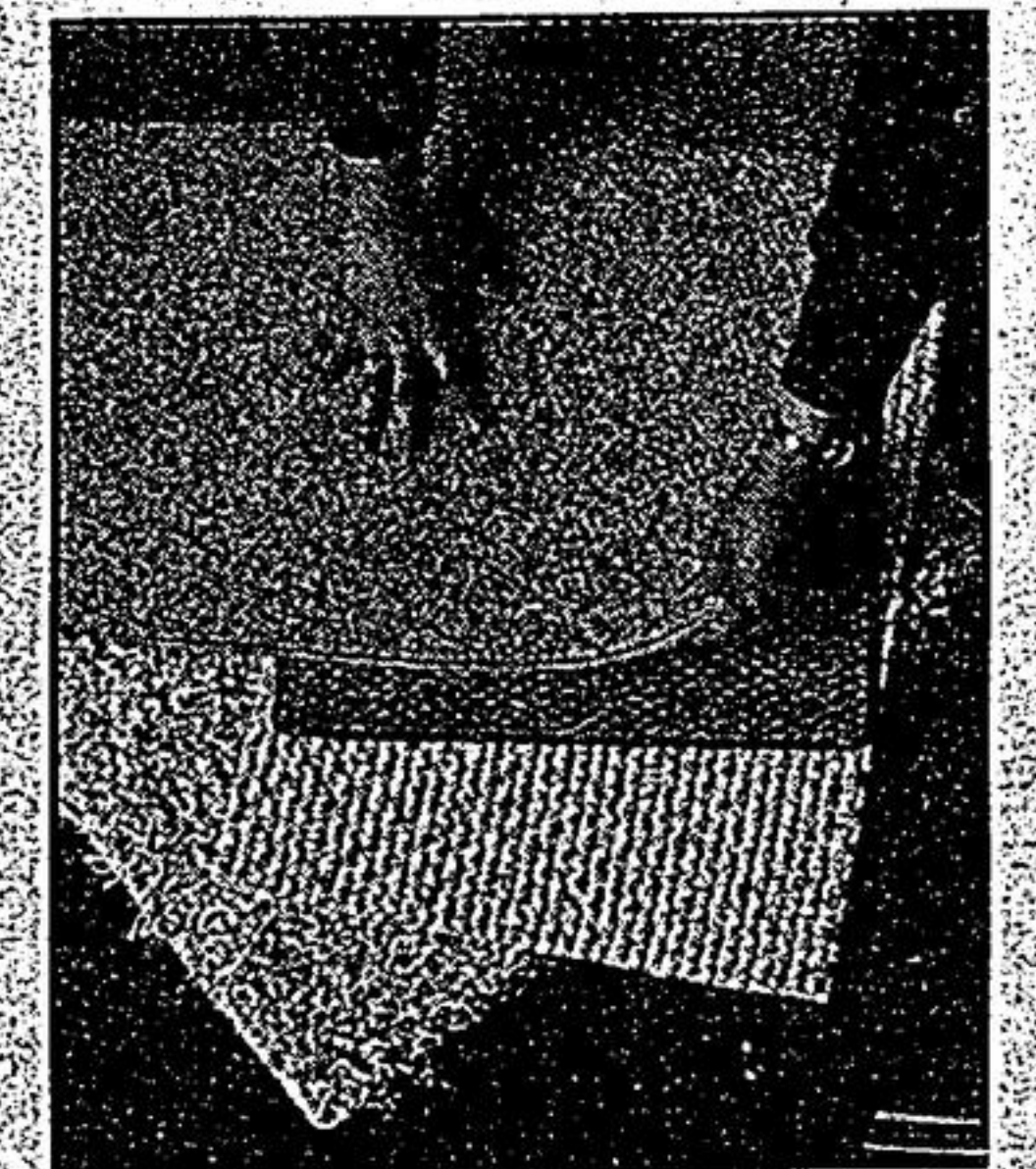
1) **Textured plush.** This is a decoratively versatile cut with a textured surface that helps to hide footprints. It adds visual appeal to any room, it looks great between vacuuming and is considered a great whole house carpet.

2) **Saxony.** This is a refined cut pile surface which is luxuriously smooth with a soft finish. It goes well with traditional interiors, and adds style and elegance to any room. Perfect for living

and dining rooms.

3) **Berber Loop-Pile.** This carpet has a 'wool-like' look with a rugged loop surface. Its natural, hand-crafted appearance evokes a warm atmosphere. The tight loop texture hides footprints and vacuum marks. This is ideal for country or cottage settings.

4) **Cut/Loop.** This carpet features carved definition with cut and loop patterns. Plenty of accent colours are available from soft tones to bolder combinations.



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