

## Carpet Pile Distortion

The most common forms of pile distortion are the following topics. None of which are considered a manufacturing fault.

### Roll Crush

This is a condition that is caused by carpet being stored for long periods of time, rolled up in a storage facility. It may also have been subject to excessive weight applied to the roll, if several rolls were laid on top of the roll.

The effect is a 4" – 6" light band appearing across the width of the carpet.

This can be remediated by either using a mister bottle of water to mist the area. A hand steamer can also be used. A pile lifter should gently agitate the pile; passing it over the affected area in the opposite direction to the lay of the pile.

Vacuum the affected areas with an upright, beater bar type vacuum cleaner.

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### Pooling

This is a condition that can be caused in areas where there is more than one direction of walking traffic. This is seen more often with cut-pile carpets and less frequently with cut and loop constructions.

The effect is an appearance of watermarking or pooling as the light refracts through the fiber.

This can be remediated by either using a mister bottle of water to mist the area. A hand steamer can also be used. If the area is larger than a square yard, a commercial carpet steamer should be used. A pile lifter should gently agitate the pile; passing it over the affected area in the opposite direction to the pile lay.

Vacuum the affected areas with an upright, beater bar type vacuum cleaner. When cleaning the carpet, hot water-extract the carpet pile and vacuum the area as soon as it is dry. On occasions repeat remediation may be necessary.

**Pile Lay in Traffic Areas:**

Overtime all carpet will show signs of pile lay in traffic areas. Make sure that the correct pile weight has been selected and that a carpet pad has been used. Carpet that has been installed without a pad will likely be more susceptible to signs of wear.

Regular vacuuming and hot water extraction cleaning are recommended to keep those areas from looking worn and drab. In addition to this process, the “Encapsulated System” offered by Whitaker System is recommended for the lifetime of the carpet as part of the maintenance program.