

Carpeting



Photo: Tandus

Snapshot

Highest price per square yard:	\$38
Average price per square yard:	\$27
Lowest price per square yard:	\$19

Pricing Trends

2006-2007: +3% to +5%

2007-2008: +3% to +10%

2009 projection: +12%

Typical delivery time:

2 to 4 weeks

Typical delivery charges: Varies, depending on location

Average life span of product:

7 to 10 years

Standard warranty: Ranges from 7 to 10 years

Average maintenance cost per year:

Costs can vary widely, depending on carpet type and use

(Figures cited are averages of all respondents' answers. Actual pricing will vary due to volume, bundling and other factors of a purchase.)

Sources: Interface FLOR, Mannington, Milliken Carpet, Shaw Industries, Tandus

FROM THE FRONT LINES:

"Go walk into the communities that have it laid down. I want to go see it after it's been down for a year, or two years. Ask to speak with the people who are actually caring for it. What you pay today, you're going to save in maintenance."

Kevin Ahamadi, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Village, Cape Coral, FL

Buyer Notes

- A "wild year" is how it's been described by carpeting vendors. They say they're back to receiving multiple price hikes per year for materials, most of which are petroleum-based. At least some of the increased costs are going to have to be passed on to the end-user, one vendor warned.
- Suppliers urge shoppers to allow for enough time for the factories to make an order—usually three to four weeks, if it's not in stock.
- More buyers must keep the cost of ownership in mind. Buying cheaper often means more frequent cleanings and replacements. That also means more facility upheaval if you have to relocate residents or furniture more often.

**For a list of vendors go to the:
FURNISHINGS & FURNITURE section,
page 110-112**