Cornrowing

What you need to know

Cornrowing is defined as the intertangling of alternating rows of pile yarn when subjected to traffic and maintenance. This occurs most often in carpets with a higher pile height, (5/8” or higher), and low gauge and stitch rate. It will generally appear perpendicular to the flow of traffic. Cornrowing gets its name because it resembles rows of corn in a field. Rows of tufts are standing erect followed by rows that are lying down in the pile. Cornrowing is often found in narrow areas such as hallways, bedroom doorways and in front of furniture. These are areas where the consumer cannot vacuum the carpet in all four directions. Soil helps bind the yarns: therefore, cleaning as well as grooming with a carpet rake, such as a Perky Groomer, (www.groomindustries.com), can result in improvement. Regular vacuuming, grooming and professional cleaning may be required for satisfactory appearance. This condition is considered to be maintenance related. Cornrowing is not a manufacturing defect.

Other Factors
Re-arrange the furniture where room configurations allow. Vacuum the carpet in all four directions if possible. Rake the carpet with a carpet rake, (especially across the width of the high traffic areas). Have the carpet professionally cleaned using restorative methods such as steam cleaning. Failure to properly specify the carpet for the anticipated demand, and improper pad selection, can contribute to this performance complaint.

Field Inspection

Examine the complaint area closely to determine if rows of tufts are standing erect with in-between rows laying down into the pile. Check to see if the complaint area is in a narrow traffic lane, hallway or door entrance. Check the vacuum cleaner to see if it is adjusted and operating properly. Use a neutral cleaning solution to check for soil in the complaint area. Where possible, use hot water extraction to clean a test area where cornrowing is present. Groom with a carpet rake and determine if the area can be restored through professional maintenance.

Lab Testing:

Hexapod Walker ASTM D 5252

Page Summary

Floordetective.com states: "Cornrowing is a use and maintenance related condition found in some carpets with a high pile height and low gauge and stitch rate. It generally appears perpendicular to the flow of traffic. Rows of tufts are standing erect followed by in-between rows that are lying down in the pile. Cornrowing is often found in narrow areas such as hallways, bedroom doorways and in front of furniture. These are areas where the consumer cannot vacuum the carpet in all four directions. Soil helps bind the yarns: therefore, cleaning as well as grooming with a carpet rake, can result in improvement. Cornrowing is not a manufacturing defect."

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