

*Buying carpets represents a major expense,
which could become a major headache
if proper selection is ignored*

Carpet Magic For The Club

Improper carpeting can soak up a good deal of the club's budget. Knowing some whys and wherefores of carpet buying, especially the spike-proof type, will enable the manager to keep this large but necessary expense within reasonable bounds. Following are guidelines the manager can use when considering installing or replacing carpets.

TYPE

Modern technology has helped develop the spike-proof carpet. This type of carpet is woven. According to carpeting experts, tufted or knitted carpets will not provide protection against spikes.

There are three primary factors which produce a good spike-proof carpet—pile height, pile density and yarn thickness. One authority claims that the pile height should be no less than .300 of an inch (.250 of an inch is one-fourth of an inch high). The purpose of the high pile height is to prevent spiked shoes from penetrating the bottom of the carpet and ripping its backing. However, unless the density is thick enough, the spikes will trample the material and rip the rug.

Pile density is hard to measure because it is determined in large measure by the pile height and yarn thickness. One company has a carpet with a density of 84 tufts per square inch. This reportedly holds up well because a heavy yarn is used. There are various yarns that can be selected. The important thing is that it should be a fairly thick yarn.

COLOR

Color is essential when selecting where a carpet will be used. In locker rooms and entrances,

where spike traffic is heavy, a lot of dirt and soot is pressed into the rug. Certain colors such as mud and earth tones do an excellent job of hiding this soil. However, mud colors do not completely solve the problem. White soiling from dust and other sources creates a different problem. In this case, a lighter colored or a patterned carpet might hide the dirt. A wide selection of patterns is available to clubhouses. One company, for example, has over 100 variations.

Colors and patterns play an equally large role in non-spike-proof carpeting, although a somewhat different role. In many cases, the purpose is to hide and resist spills and stains such as those common to a club's dining room. Furthermore, the colors and patterns should contribute to a more luxurious look. A tufted carpet with backing or a woven carpet was recommended by one expert.

WEATHER

Another vital factor to consider

when selecting a carpet is the weather. As noted previously, the amount of dirt and mud largely determines the color, in many cases. In regions with heavy rainfall, which will bring in extra dirt, additional protection for the carpet is necessary. This can be done by placing more outside mats for wiping shoes and by adding and enforcing stricter rules governing spike shoe wear. Conversely, in regions with a lot of sunshine, a light color carpet can be used with less protection and less frequent cleaning.

DURABILITY

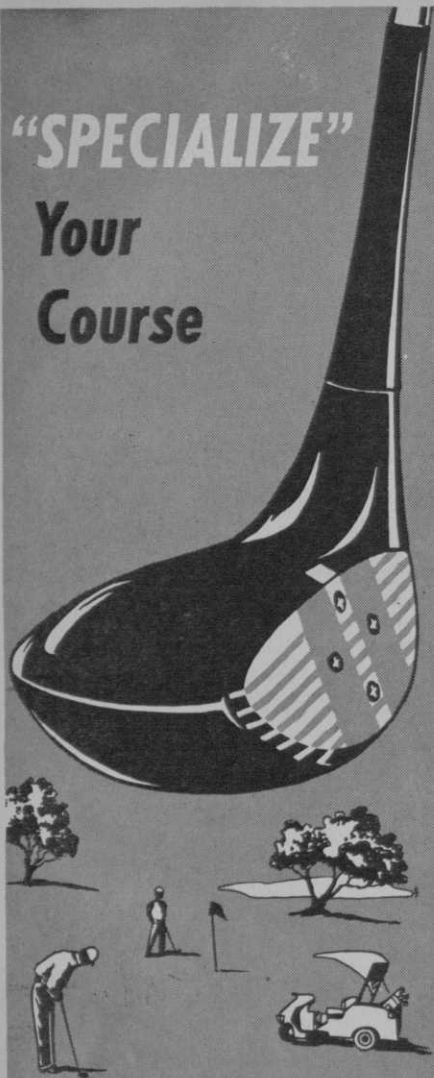
Just how much wear can you expect from a spike-proof carpet? A standard is just about impossible because there are too many factors involved. However, here are some answers derived from actual experience. Based on good maintenance, one company is now willing to say that its spike-proof carpet should last at least 10 to 12 years. But the same company has also indicated that poor maintenance will cut carpet life considerably. On the extremes, there were cases cited in which a golf club had the same carpeting for 18 years, while another club's carpet lasted only two years.

The spike-proof carpet not only stands up to spike wear but also resists well stains and spills, it is reported. As for the material, one carpet mill said it experimented with almost every combination of wool and nylon and found a 70 per cent wool, 30 per cent nylon ratio to be the best performer. Spike-proof carpets can also be used in dining areas, the one area many clubs sometimes reserve for

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Carpet

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a non-spike-proof carpet. It's merely personal preference.

UNDERPADDING

Every carpet expert agreed that there must be underpadding. The underpads provide a cushion, but more important, prolong the life of the carpet. Underpads, however, should not be confused with a carpet that has its own backing.

There are various types of underpads, and two recommended ones were an all hair (animal hair)

type and a combination of animal hair and jute with a rubber coating. The latter, to give an idea of weight and depth, has a 56-ounce per square yard weight and a three-eighths-inch thickness.

COST

There is no average cost that can realistically be projected because, again, there are too many factors coming in to play. One expert, however, ventured to say that he felt the minimum payment a manager should invest, no matter what the size of the area to be covered, should be no less than \$14 a square yard, which would include padding and installation.

Last but not least, make sure you have a reputable dealer and a reputable mill. Go to someone in your local area whom you know well and is in that business. Check to see if the company has been in business a long time, and buy a brand name.

MAINTENANCE

Naturally, you can expect longer wear from your carpet if you practice proper maintenance. Surprisingly, little care is needed (for spike-proof types). A steady program of vacuuming—once a day, once every two days, depending on each club's traffic—is sufficient. If sand is allowed to remain imbedded, it cuts the fibers and the carpet's longevity is greatly reduced. Shampooing once a year (again, frequency depends on usage) is also suggested as a rule of thumb.

As previously stated, these considerations are only meant to be guidelines. The main purpose is to help you choose the right carpet so that you get mileage from your investment. □

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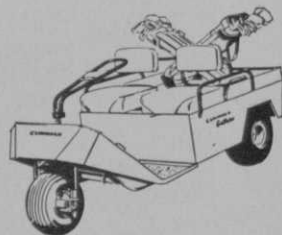
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