



CLEANER AIR MAY BE RIGHT UNDER YOUR FEET.

Recent studies are casting a new light on long-held assumptions about the perceived link between carpet and indoor air quality.

A major international survey of nearly 20,000 people in 18 countries was conducted by the European Community Respiratory Health Service in 2002 to investigate the association between asthma and exposure to environmental risk factors. The study, published in the *Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology*, found that people who lived in homes with wall-to-wall carpets in the bedroom showed fewer asthma symptoms and less bronchial responsiveness than those without. Further study showed a consistent negative association between the presence of carpets in the bedroom and current asthma.¹

A 2003 study published in the *Journal of Exposure Analysis and Environmental Epidemiology* surveyed environmental factors and asthma rates of over 4,800 school children in New Jersey. It was found that when a child's bedroom was carpeted, there were corresponding lower rates of asthma medication use and lower school absenteeism.²

An article published in *Carpet & Floorcoverings Review* reports that Sweden had reduced the installation of carpet dramatically since the mid-1970s to only 2% of the total floorcovering market by 1992. Yet, despite this reduction, a significant increase in the occurrence of asthma and allergic reactions in the general public has been reported.³

These findings suggest that it may be time to reconsider the relationship between carpet and indoor air quality. In fact, carpet that is properly cared for may actually reduce the amount of airborne allergens in the indoor environment.

Carpet:

Pleasing to the eyes.

Warm to the touch.

Easy on the air we breathe.

For the full text of these studies, visit
www.canadiancarpet.org