



# Crazy Carpets

I'm of two minds on carpets in hotel rooms. On one hand, I like the cozy, warm feeling they give to a room. On the other hand, I never walk barefooted on it as I don't know what's hiding in it 😊. What about you?

## Etymology and History<sup>1</sup>

The word carpet comes from the Old French *carpite* 'heavy decorated cloth', Medieval Latin or Old Italian *carpita* 'thick woolen cloth', which may derive from Latin *carpere* 'to card, pluck'. Historically, the word carpet was also applied to table and wall coverings as carpets were not commonly used on floors in Europe until the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The meaning of carpet then shifted to refer to floor coverings.

The oldest, single, surviving knotted carpet in existence is the Pazyryk carpet, excavated from a frozen tomb in Siberia, dated from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, now in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. Although many cultures pretend that they're the owner of the Pazyryk, several experts consider that the carpet originates from Armenia.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carpet>

## Carpets or other flooring?<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup>

Hotels use carpets for a number of reasons, including:

- *To stifle sound* - whether guests walk in a hotel's corridors or pace up and down in their rooms, their footsteps are deadened by the hotel's carpets.
- *Easy to maintain and replace* - carpets require only vacuuming and shampoo. When worn out, they are easy to remove and replace.
- *Act as durable floor coverings* - when made from hard-wearing yarn, carpets can last for a long time, something quite useful for hotels who deal with lots of people.
- *Offer traction* –guests are safe walking on the hotel's surfaces.

On the other hand, teak, hardwood floors, tiles, ceramics, etc. have an advantage over carpets: they cannot hide stains from sight. As a result, those floorings must be cleaned whenever there is a mess, which is not necessarily the case with colourful carpets that can easily conceal filth. In addition, bacteria can hide more easily on carpets than on hard flooring.

## Fun Fact<sup>7,8</sup>

In the movie 'The Shining' (staring Jack Nicholson), the carpet's orange, brown and red pattern leaps out, so it's no surprise that it has become the most iconic carpet to ever feature in a film. A few theories were put forward to explain why the Hexagon carpet was chosen for this famous film set.

- First, because of its unnerving, mesmerizing presence which adds a sense of foreboding.
- Second, because the graphic pattern works well in Kubrick's symmetrical framing and adds a more dramatic sense of perspective and a lengthening effect of the corridor.
- Third, the hexagonal carpet can be linked to Kubrick's fascination for chess and war strategy. Hex maps, hex boards and hex grids are often used in strategy and war game games of all scales. The hex board could almost be a initial sketch for the carpet.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.coupercroiser.com/en/why-use-carpet-floor-covering-hotel/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mgroupcorp.com/why-every-hotel-needs-rugs/#:~:text=Rugs%20are%20an%20easy%20way,way%20to%20quiet%20things%20down.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://carpetcouture.com/blogs/news/why-do-hotels-use-carpet-flooring>

<sup>5</sup> <https://completecarpets.com.au/why-hotels-love-carpet/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://journeyjunket.com/why-do-hotels-use-carpets/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://filmandfurniture.com/2017/11/kubricks-carpet-in-the-shining/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://filmandfurniture.com/2022/01/the-captivating-room-237-carpet-of-the-shinings-overlook-hotel/>

- Fourth, a hexagon has six sides. As Hallorann (in the movie) explains to Danny, ‘the Shine’ is a psychic or clairvoyant ability – one might say a sixth sense.

Coming back to hotels, carpets do not only add colour and ambiance to the décor but they’re also one of the first things that guests see when they enter the lobby or their rooms. As such, carpets must be kept clean at all times. Unfortunately, the number one issue in the Hotel Industry nowadays is staff shortage.

That’s why it makes good sense for hotels to implement an electronic tipping solution like **Tip&Go** which can increase employee wages by up to 30%, encouraging them to stay in the industry.

**Francis Léonard CEO**



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