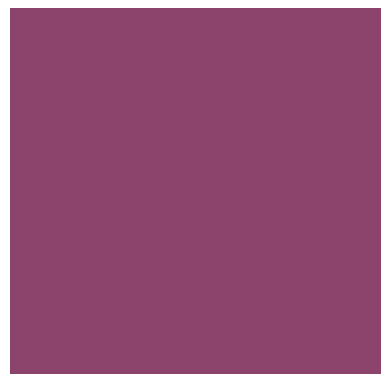



**danfloor**  
An Ulster Group Company

## CARPET VERSUS HARD FLOORING

### In dementia care settings

Dementia friendly design can make a real difference in improving the quality of life for the thousands of residents living with dementia in a care setting.





Care homes these days are faced with a number of different options and opinions when it comes to making a decision as to whether they should install carpet or a hard floor finish in their homes.

We appreciate that carpet isn't suitable for all areas but The University of Stirling does state that where possible carpet should be installed in a care home due to its many functional benefits:



## Acoustics

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Within a care home, corridors and lounges can be very busy places at all times of the day or night. The presence of carpet in such areas helps to absorb unwanted sound; reducing the reverberation time of the room. This is very important for people with difficulty hearing and those with dementia as it makes it easier to filter out unwanted noise and therefore reduces stress and confusion.



## Soft landing for trips and falls

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Studies have also shown that carpet, when compared with vinyl, can reduce injuries caused by trips and falls. It's also been proven that the gait speed and step length is greater in older people walking on carpeted areas than on vinyl. The Tones range can also withstand impact from walking aids and with a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule will not lose its appearance over time.



## Home from home feeling

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All care homes these days are trying to move away from an institutional look and feel with the aim of creating a more homely atmosphere. Therefore it's essential to have carpet where possible.

Our Equinox Tones range, which is designed specifically for dementia care settings, provides a subtle colour bank which aids designers with specifying various room scenes and creating a domestic environment. Nevertheless the texture of carpet in care homes needs to be flat to allow for shuffling and the use of walking aids, wheelchairs and trolleys. It's also important to have carpet in a bedroom wherever possible as this makes rooms feel homely. The University of Stirling would not advise that vinyl is laid in bedrooms unless absolutely necessary.



## Indoor air quality

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It's not just infection control that should be considered but indoor air quality when it comes to flooring in the care sector, especially if you have residents living with breathing difficulties such as asthma.

Throughout the last 10 years there have been numerous studies into the use of carpet versus hard floor surfaces and what effect these two flooring solutions have on air quality. Fine dust can present a significant health hazard, especially for allergy sufferers, as particles may cause irritation when they are breathed in and enter the respiratory tract.

Many of the studies suggest that carpet retains dust particles, unlike hard surfaces where they regularly become air born. If carpets are regularly vacuumed these dust particles, and allergens that are bound within fine dust particles, are removed from the room without causing discomfort.