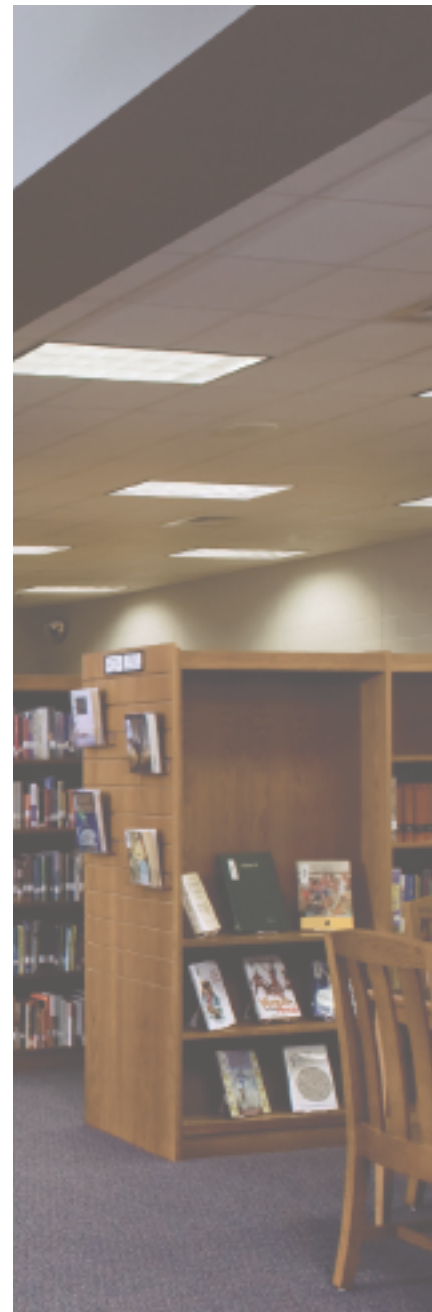


Carpet is Best in Class

education



At the Barrow County School District in Winder, Ga., it is Jake Grant's responsibility to specify and install floor covering that will perform for more than 25 years, maximizing the school district's return on investment. With such a performance-oriented objective, Grant cannot make even one wrong specification decision.

Antron[®]
carpet fiber

CASE STUDY:

Barrow County School District, Winder, GA

"We're too poor to buy cheap," said Jake Grant, assistant superintendent of schools, facilities.

That is Grant's philosophy when it comes to purchasing floor covering for all of the schools in Barrow County, Ga., one of the nation's fastest growing counties in the United States, according to US Census Bureau statistics (2005).

Like many facility managers, Grant experienced mixed performance with carpet installed at the schools. In 2002, he decided to switch from carpet to vinyl composition tile (VCT) in three new school additions as a cost savings and

performance experiment. At the time, the district's school board also was convinced that VCT would be easier to clean.

On the first day of school, Grant realized his choice may have come with some unexpected challenges. "The noise generated from the classrooms on the second floor sounded like a drum, causing a major distraction to students in the classrooms below," said Grant.

As the school year progressed, another challenge surfaced. This time it was maintenance related. "The VCT created so much dust that we were unable to capture all of it using maintenance equipment with a filtration level of 10. Even with our daily dusting and vacuuming efforts, the maintenance personnel had a difficult time cleaning the schools according to our standards. We started to worry about the effect the dust might have on a healthy learning environment for our students."

Now the Barrow County School District was again faced with the challenge of writing a carpet specification that would exceed their performance and maintenance expectations in the classroom as well as fall within the district's budget range.

"From my past experience, I knew finding a carpet that could perform for 25 years might be an unrealistic expectation," said Grant. "What I didn't know was that carpet fiber does significantly influence how well carpet performs over time."

While attending the national Council of Educational Facility Planners International conference, Grant learned about Antron® carpet fiber, and how a high performance fiber can extend the life of carpet. He learned about the unique hollow filament structure of Antron® carpet fiber which has exterior surfaces that are designed to resist soiling, making it easier to extract dirt from the carpet. In addition, Type 6,6 nylon, used in all Antron® carpet fiber, has a tighter molecular structure that makes it tougher for stains to penetrate and increases a carpet's resistance to crushing and matting, compared to Type 6 nylon.

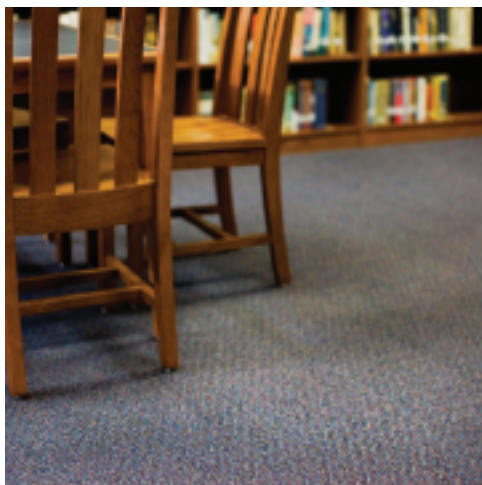
"I learned that selecting the right fiber coupled with a maintenance program does impact how long carpet will stay newer looking," said Grant.

To address the noise and maintenance problems in the three schools with VCT, Grant installed Sentinel II vinyl cushioned tufted textile from Tاندus on top of the VCT. Both problems were virtually eliminated at once. And now, Grant will only consider carpet styles made of Antron® carpet fiber for classrooms, media centers and corridors because he has the confidence the carpet will exceed his expectations in terms of performance and controlling acoustics.

"In some schools, our carpet is already five years old and it still looks great," said Grant. "We are extremely pleased with how easy it is to maintain. Our maintenance program simply consists of hot water extraction and timely spot cleaning on stains typically found in a school environment. I wish every decision was this easy."

CLEANABILITY

Antron® carpet fiber uses hollow filament shapes which minimize the soil trapping area of the fiber and the appearance of soil. The hole(s) refract and diffuse light to hide the effects of soil, while specially designed outer surfaces make it easier for soil to be released during cleaning.



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— Jake Grant, assistant superintendent of schools, facilities

For more information on Antron® carpet fiber, please call 877-5ANTRON or visit antron.net.

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