



ulster™  
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THE WOOL FACT SHEET

## WHY ULSTER WOOL?

Ulster Carpets has been producing wool rich carpets since **1938**. In choosing an Ulster carpet you are reaping all the benefits that a wool rich carpet has to offer as well as many other unique advantages.

- > Appearance factors
- > Health and hygiene
- > Technical specification
- > Sustainability

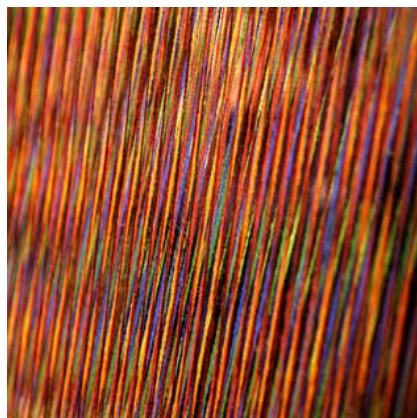


To ensure the finished carpet is of the highest quality, Ulster sources and selects only the best 'strong' wools including wool shorn from sheep in **Britain, Ireland** and **New Zealand** to make Ulster branded wool rich axminster, wilton and tufted products.

To achieve the highest quality of carpet, all areas of manufacturing are fully vertical within the UK. From the buying and processing of the wool in Dewsbury (Ulster Yarns) through to winding, dyeing and weaving at our Northern Ireland headquarters.

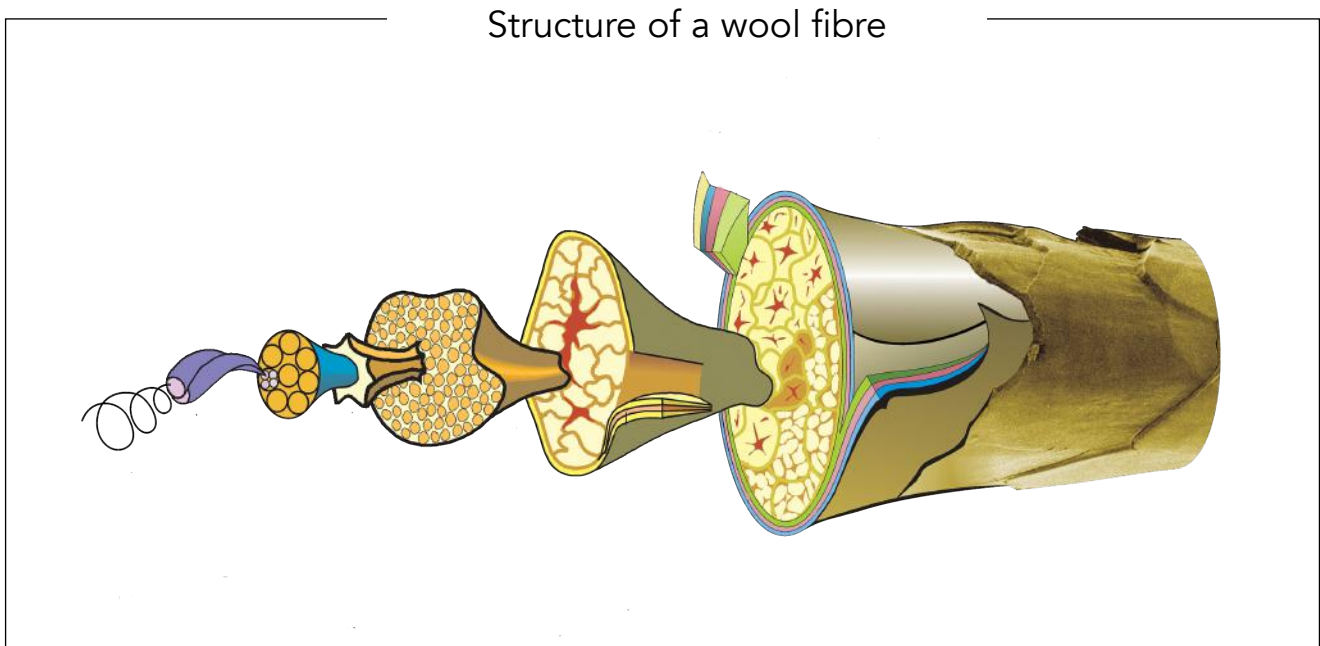
At Ulster Yarns, strict quality control measures are implemented from initial purchasing through to spinning. As with any fibre (natural or man-made) the quality of the wool will greatly impact on the overall integrity of the carpet and Ulster is committed to selecting only the highest grade of wool. Wool is often used in a blend with other fibres to optimise performance. The most common contract blend is 80% wool and 20% nylon, which provides the carpet with the benefits of wool along with the properties associated with nylon.

Ulster's new dye house and energy centre has allowed the company to move entirely to a package dyeing system. This has facilitated a number of manufacturing efficiencies and brought many environmental benefits. The new technology enables more dye lots per day to be produced using considerably less water, heat and chemicals.



## UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF WOOL

A wool fibre is a **molecular coil-spring** made up of folded polypeptide chains which make the fibre remarkably elastic and flexible. This flexibility means wool is an extremely **durable** and **resilient** fibre making it the perfect choice for flooring.



- > Wool has the ability to stretch up to 30% of its length and revert to the original form like a spring. When wool is pressed down it is able to bounce back to its original shape, meaning carpet looks better for longer.
  
- > In normal atmospheres wool contains 13-18% moisture, which can increase naturally to over 30% in extreme conditions, without the carpet feeling wet. This gives wool a low build up of static electricity. In comparison, the natural content of synthetics varies between 0-3%.
  
- > Wool is able to filter out Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from the air and lock them into its core which improves the environment in which it is located.
  
- > Wool's scaly, overlapping, outer fibre coating helps to contain dirt high in the pile which enables quick soil release when vacuuming.
  
- > The thin, natural, water repelling cuticle prevents penetration of accidental water-based stains.

## APPEARANCE FACTORS

### **Colour**

Wool absorbs dye well and therefore can be coloured in a wide spectrum of shades. This gives depth and brightness to the carpet's colour and ensures clarity and definition of design.

### **Resilience**

The natural crimp in fibre gives wool extraordinary elasticity. It has the ability to stretch up to 30% of its length and revert to its original form. Wool fibres and 80/20 wool/nylon yarns resist compression and recover their shape much more readily than any man-made fibre. This ability to reduce crushing minimises colour change due to pile flattening.

### **Stain Repellent**

The cuticle of the wool fibre is covered with a fine, water-repellent coating which gives it a natural resistance to liquids. This serves to delay the penetration of the liquid into the pile, thus allowing time for the spillage to be blotted away.

### **Luxurious Feel**

The natural softness of wool underfoot offers great comfort and luxury as well as being highly durable and resilient to footfall/flattening.

### **Maintenance**

With some simple, regular maintenance, an Ulster Carpet will stay looking its best for many years. The outer layer of the wool fibre is covered in an overlapping layer of protective scales which trap dirt and dust near the surface where it can be easily vacuumed away.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE

### **Anti Allergy**

Wool is a natural fibre which is hygienic and non allergenic. Research backs up the ability of wool rich carpets to reduce airborne dust in the home by trapping it in its top layer. It does not promote the growth of bacteria and is unsuited to dust mites. The natural filtering effect makes it perfect for people with asthma or allergies.

### **Improves Indoor Air Quality**

Wool naturally absorbs humidity and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) producing a cleaner, more comfortable living environment.

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

## Flammability

Wool does not easily ignite due to the natural structure of the fibre. It does not melt, drip or release noxious fumes.

Ulster meets the following requirements:

EN13501 Euro Class	EN11925 & EN ISO 9239
Marine Flammability	MED-B-9840, MED - D - 2065 & MED - B - 9841 (tufted)
USA Flammability	ASTM E648 E662

## Electrostatic Propensity

Our wool rich carpets have lower residual voltage compared to nylon, acrylic and polyester. This is largely a comfort factor but may also be important where electronic machinery is installed.

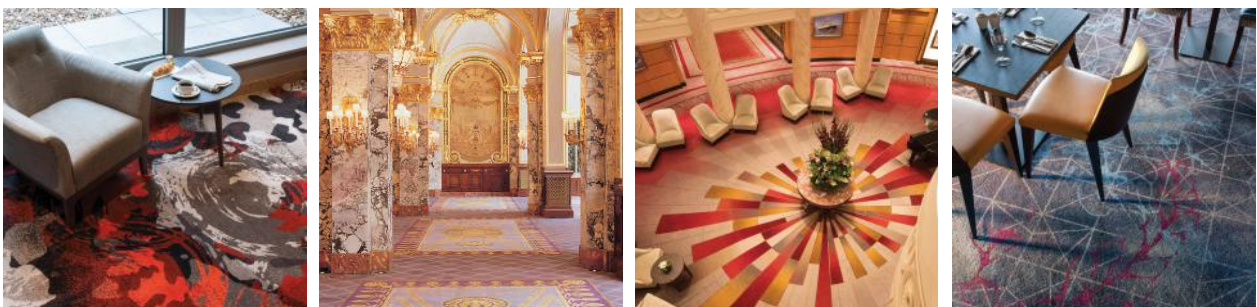
Electrostatic Propensity - Less than 2.5kV

## Abrasion Resistance

Wool's soil resistance helps minimize wear caused by the abrasion of dirt particles against the carpet fibres. The overall abrasion resistance of wool is further enhanced by the addition of nylon in wool rich carpets.

## Thermal Insulation

Carpets do not conduct heat and as such provide good thermal insulation. As much as 10 to 12% of the heat in a room could be dissipated with smooth floor covering as compared to carpet.



### Acoustic Performance

The acoustic performance of a room can be significantly improved by the use of a wool rich carpet. Unlike hard floors, wool carpets absorb sound and also reduce the impact noise in a room. Ulster meets the requirements of BS EN ISO 10140 - 3: 2010.

Sound Absorption	ISO 354: 2003
Sound Insulation	ISO 140 Part 6

### Appearance Retention

Wool rich carpets have been shown to maintain their appearance better over time. Ulster meets the following standard for appearance retention: BS6659

### Colour Fastness

All Ulster Carpets are tested for colour fastness to light, shampooing, water and dry and wet rubbing. We meet the following requirements:

Colour Fastness - Light	ISO 105-B02
Colour Fastness - Shampooing	BS1006
Colour Fastness - Water	BS EN ISO 105 - E01
Colour Fastness - Rubbing	BS EN ISO 105 - X12 (BS 1006)

### VOC Emissions

Ulster meets the following requirements for Volatile Organic Compound Emissions:

GLP Approved	GLP 3278
French VOC	C Rating (Jute) A Rating (Poly)
Belgian VOC	NR 411381-01

Ulster Carpets manufactures under a quality system BS EN ISO 9001: 2015 approved by the British Standards Institution.

## SUSTAINABILITY

With the ever growing number of environmental concerns, choosing an Ulster wool rich carpet contributes to the preservation of the environment without compromising on performance and luxury.

### **Biodegradable & Recyclable**

Wool is both a rapidly renewable resource and biodegradable, therefore its impact on the environment is greatly reduced compared with fully synthetic carpets. Choosing an Ulster carpet contributes to the preservation of the environment without compromising on performance and luxury.

### **Renewable & Sustainable Supply**

Wool is sheared annually and re-grows naturally providing a sustainable annual supply.

### **Energy Efficient**

Ulster wool rich carpet is much more energy efficient in carpet production compared to synthetic carpet. The fibres that make up synthetic carpets are petroleum based, requiring high amounts of energy to extract the oil from the ground and are therefore not sustainable. Wool carpet also aids insulation and can save on energy consumption.

Ulster is committed to the preservation of the environment in the long term and is continually developing new ways to reduce the company's physical footprint:

- > **We have halved our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**
- > **96% of our post-industrial waste is diverted from landfill**
- > **We have been accredited with ISO 14001 from 2004**





# ulster<sup>TM</sup>

## CONTACT US

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