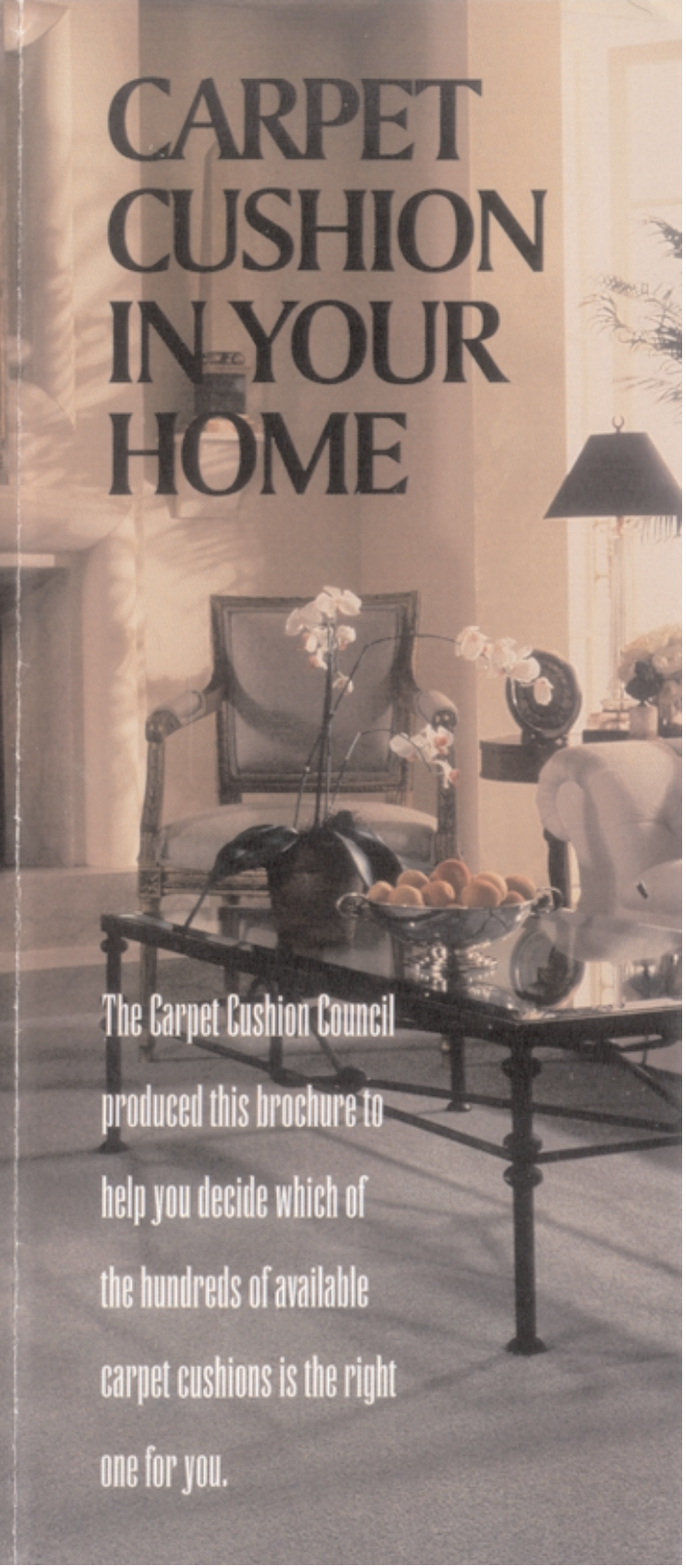


CARPET CUSHION IN YOUR HOME

The Carpet Cushion Council produced this brochure to help you decide which of the hundreds of available carpet cushions is the right one for you.

Choosing The Right Carpet Cushion Is As Important As Choosing The Right Carpet.

Selecting the right carpet cushion is critical to protect an investment in new carpet. Quality carpet cushion absorbs shock from foot traffic, and helps prevent carpet fibers from matting and crushing. This helps keep the carpet looking fresh and new. There are other advantages to quality carpet cushion.

Choosing the Right Carpet Cushion Couldn't Be Easier.

To make choosing the proper cushion simple, the Carpet Cushion Council is providing the following minimum recommendations for separate carpet cushion used in different traffic areas of the home. These recommendations have been adopted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under UM72a as its requirements for cushion used in FHA-financed housing.*

Minimum Recommendations for Residential Applications

TYPE	KEY CHARACTERISTICS					
	CLASS 1			CLASS 2		
	weight, oz./sq. yd. min.	density, lbs./cu. ft. min.	thickness, in. min.	weight, oz./sq. yd. min.	density, lbs./cu. ft. min.	thickness, in. min.
URETHANE						
Prime		2.2	0.375	Not Recommended for class 2		
Grafted Prime		2.7	0.250		2.7	0.250
Densified Prime		2.2	0.313		2.7	0.250
Bonded		5.0	0.375		6.5	0.375
Mechanically Frothed		10.0	0.250		12.0	0.250
FIBER						
Rubberized Hair Jute	40.0	12.3	0.2700	50.0	11.1	0.375
Rubberized Jute	32.0	8.5	0.3125	40.0	8.9	0.375
Synthetic Fibers	22.0	6.5	0.2500	28.0	6.5	0.390
Resinated Recycled Textile Fiber	24.0	7.3	0.2500	30.0	7.3	0.300
RUBBER						
Flat Rubber	56.0	18.0	0.220	64.0	21.0	0.220
Rippled Rubber	48.0	14.0	0.285	64.0	16.0	0.330

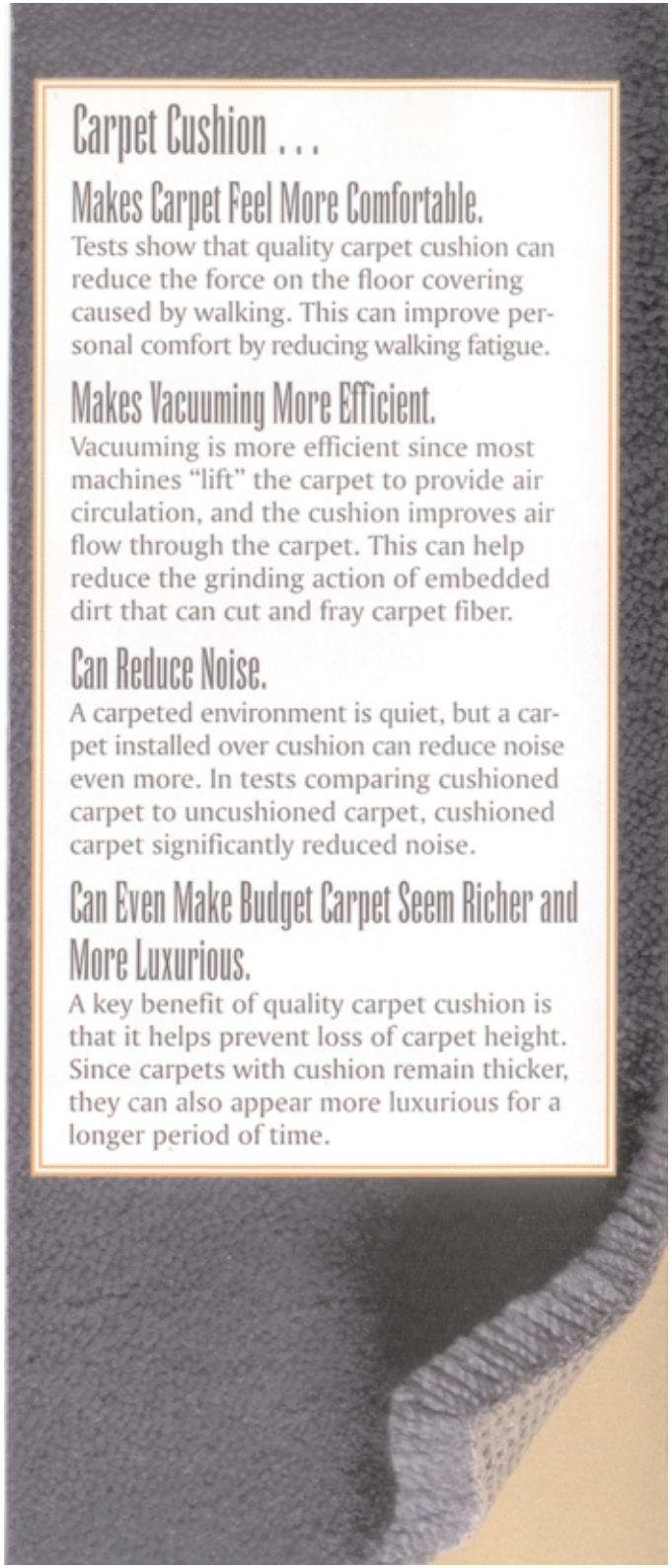
Maximum thickness for any product is 0.5 inches.

Class 1: Light and Moderate Traffic such as living, dining, bedrooms, and recreational rooms. Class 2 cushion may be used in Class 1 applications.

Class 2: Heavy Duty Traffic, such as lobbies and corridors in multi-family facilities, and all stair applications.

This chart illustrates products that meet **minimum** guidelines. Better grades of carpet cushion than the minimum suggested are always recommended when possible to provide more support and cushion for carpet. In areas where heavy use is expected, the Carpet Cushion Council suggests using firmer grades of cushion. These areas include stairways, halls, and areas where heavy furniture is used (such as living rooms and dining rooms). Softer cushion may be used in bedrooms and lounge areas where use is lighter and a plusher "feel" is desired.

*HUD requirements have been in use for over 20 years, and have been proven to work. In addition, the Carpet Cushion Council in cooperation with other associations, has conducted extensive testing on different types of cushion to see how they perform in use. Ask your floorcovering dealer for cushion that meets or exceeds these requirements. The UM72a standards include other technical characteristics for each type of carpet cushion. Please contact the Carpet Cushion Council for further details.



Carpet Cushion . . .

Makes Carpet Feel More Comfortable.

Tests show that quality carpet cushion can reduce the force on the floor covering caused by walking. This can improve personal comfort by reducing walking fatigue.

Makes Vacuuming More Efficient.

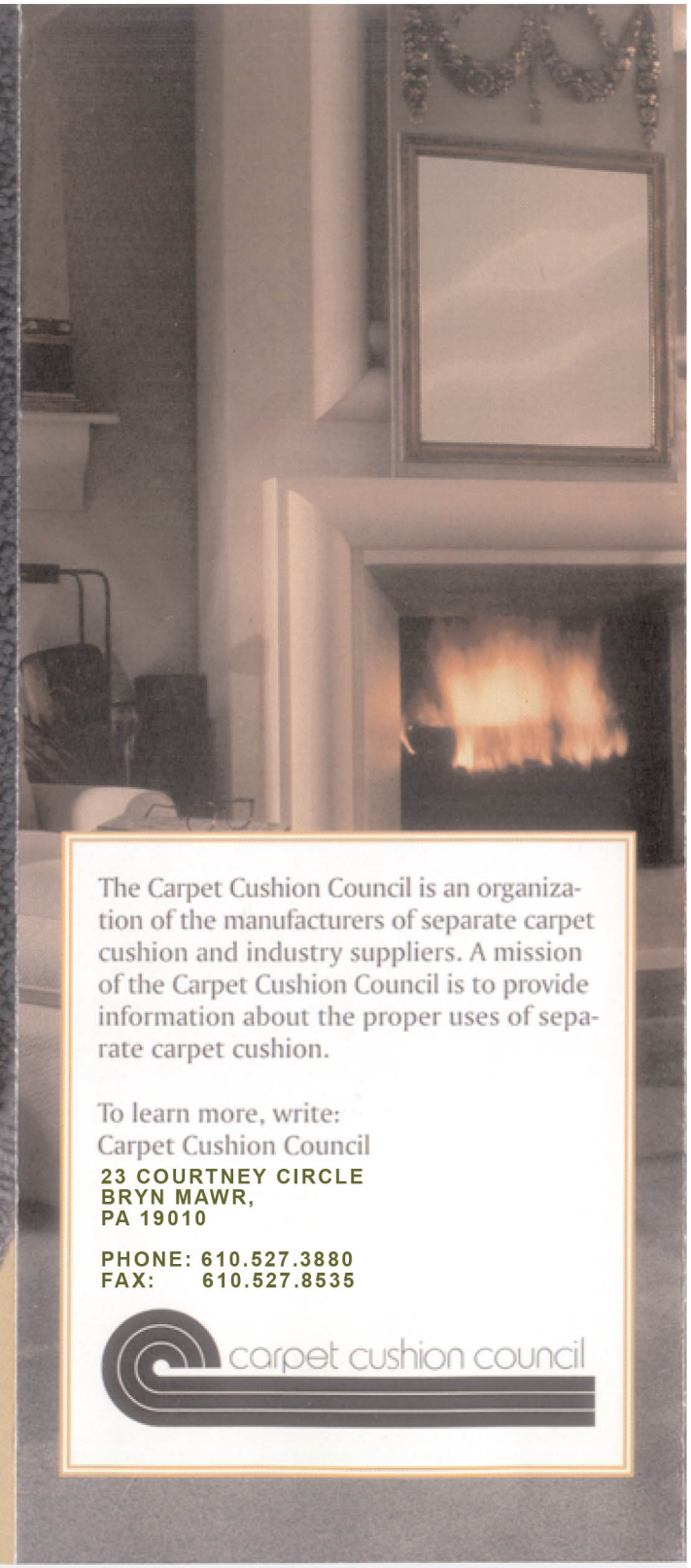
Vacuuming is more efficient since most machines "lift" the carpet to provide air circulation, and the cushion improves air flow through the carpet. This can help reduce the grinding action of embedded dirt that can cut and fray carpet fiber.

Can Reduce Noise.

A carpeted environment is quiet, but a carpet installed over cushion can reduce noise even more. In tests comparing cushioned carpet to uncushioned carpet, cushioned carpet significantly reduced noise.

Can Even Make Budget Carpet Seem Richer and More Luxurious.

A key benefit of quality carpet cushion is that it helps prevent loss of carpet height. Since carpets with cushion remain thicker, they can also appear more luxurious for a longer period of time.



The Carpet Cushion Council is an organization of the manufacturers of separate carpet cushion and industry suppliers. A mission of the Carpet Cushion Council is to provide information about the proper uses of separate carpet cushion.

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carpet cushion council