



## **APPEARANCE RETENTION**



### **Appearance -In-Use**

To purchasers of carpet products, performance generally means long-term appearance-in-use – that is, the ability of carpet to retain a high degree of its original appearance over time when installed and maintained properly.

### **Lab Study**

To evaluate the benefit of cushion in extending the appearance retention of carpet, a lab study was conducted at the Floor Covering Industry Center. Two similar face constructions, both 28 oz and 1/8" gauge level-loop construction, were used. One sample was finished with a conventional latex backing; the second was manufactured using BioCel™ PFAB-3 Polyurethane Carpet Backing.

### **Hexapod Tumble Drum Tester**

The samples were subjected to 12,000 cycles in the Hexapod Tumble Drum Tester. This apparatus is designed to simulate the type of wear carpet receives once installed. The carpet is installed inside the vertical drum. An 8.4-lb steel ball with six mounted rubber studs attached is placed on top of the carpet. When the drum begins to rotate, the steel ball bounces freely on the surface of the carpet to simulate walking. Once the 12,000 cycles are completed, the carpet is removed and evaluated against a set of industry-standard photographs showing carpet wear and rated according to the Appearance Retention Index. Testing showed that BioCel<sup>1</sup> PFAB-3 provides better appearance retention properties over conventional latex backing.

### **Results**

Testing shows commercial carpet simply looks better longer when installed with a firm cushion. The reason is that cushion flexes imperceptibly, reducing pile crushing and matting over time while absorbing most of the daily grind that tends to mat and crush fibers.

For additional information:

In the U.S. and Canada Contact Universal Textile Technologies (UTT)  
204 W. Industrial Blvd, Dalton, GA 30720  
706.876.5604 Fax: 706.277.1837

[www.universal-textile.com](http://www.universal-textile.com)  
[info@universal-textile.net](mailto:info@universal-textile.net)

NOTICE: No freedom from any patent owned by UTT or others is to be inferred. Because use conditions and applicable laws may differ from one location to another and may change with time, Customer is responsible for determining whether products and the information in this document are appropriate for Customer's use and for ensuring that Customer's workplace and disposal practices are in compliance with applicable laws and other governmental enactments. UTT assumes no obligation or liability for the information in this document. NO WARRANTIES ARE GIVEN: ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE ARE EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED.