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8 ENJOYING A COMEBACK

The wall-to-wall carpet is back, and it's come a long way since the in-your-face swirls of the 1970s. A cosy and tactile alternative to the simplicity of bare wood, there's an ever-increasing abundance of contemporary shades, eye-catching prints and patterns, not to mention textures, to choose from. Less is often more though; the subtle, vintage-inspired pastel floral carpet here, for instance, still allows scope for pops of standout colour in the form of a beautifully worn green antique cabinet and bed frame.

Capello Shell in Coral,
£149 per sq m, Quirky B
Liberty Fabrics for
Alternative Flooring.

Buying carpet: the essentials

Room-by-room carpet wisdom from The Carpet Foundation's Rupert Anton

When considering carpet, think about your rooms and their function. The hallway is the first thing people see and first impressions count. Hallways and stairs are the ultimate 'high traffic' areas, so it's wise to invest in a hard-wearing carpet.

A stair runner is also a good way of introducing colour and pattern, and adds interest to a functional area – darker shades are generally more forgiving.

As the hub of the household, you'll need a fairly robust carpet for the living room – 80 per cent wool and 20 per cent nylon. Or, if you have a young family, consider stain-resistant polypropylene.

In the bedroom, there's nothing like feeling the warmth and comfort of carpet underfoot, and with it being a very personal space, you can be more adventurous with colour or pattern.

Plain carpets give you greater flexibility and are easier to build schemes around. Darker hues create a mood of intimacy and elegance, while lighter colours make a room feel brighter. There's also a wonderful variety of statement carpets out there, including geometrics, plaids and tartans; stripes, too – their leading lines can make a small area seem larger. And always take home a sample to see how it looks in situ.