



WHITEPAPER

Carpet Tiles vs. Entrance Mats

Are carpet tiles too good to be true?

Carpet tiles have become a popular alternative for entrance flooring in recent years. Their low cost and reputation for simple installation have been major selling points to budget-conscious architects and owners as well as labor-leery installers. The allure of a quick and easy solution for trapping dirt and

moisture at the building's main entrance has allowed carpet tiles to gain traction in the industry. However, there is another side to the story — one that begins after the tiles are installed. We want to give you the tools to decide for yourself: are carpet tiles too good to be true?





Our Approach

Our goal was to test for ourselves whether carpet tiles match up to a traditional entrance mat system.

We used carpet tiles by a globally recognized carpet manufacturer.

We also selected Pedimat® to represent the traditional entrance mat system, as this product has been an industry staple since 1970.

Through these choices, we sought to answer the following questions:

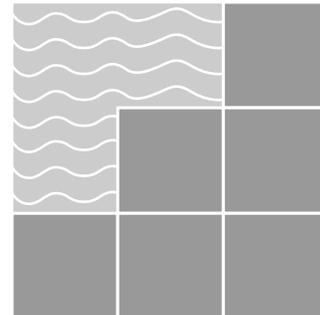
How do the dirt-trapping capabilities of carpet tiles and Pedimat compare?

How much absorption can carpet tiles and Pedimat take on before oversaturation occurs?

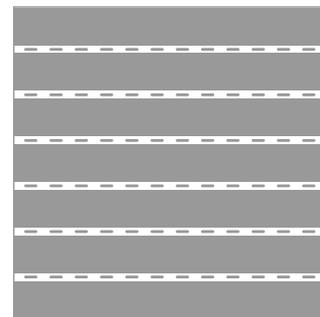
What can we learn from the recorded testing data?

How does the ROI of both products compare?

Carpet tile



Pedimat®





Dirt Trapping

How do the dirt-trapping capabilities of carpet tiles and Pedimat compare?

We selected a length of 18' as our testing benchmark for both products with a large tray of dirt and sand located at the walkway's entry point. We subjected each product to **10,000 footfalls** with pedestrians tracking dirt and sand from the debris tray at the initial entry point over a period of **eight weeks**. The carpet tiles and Pedimat were thoroughly vacuumed on a weekly basis to analyze and record the amount of dirt being tracked onto the system from the debris source. We also wanted to find out how much dirt was being trapped by each product. We could compare the amount of dirt collected, and more importantly, what was not collected, by measuring what remained in the tray.





Water Absorption

How much absorption can carpet tiles and Pedimat take on before oversaturation occurs?

We poured gallons of water on sections of each product to test how much moisture the carpet tiles and Pedimat could hold before becoming completely saturated. We wanted to find out how much water each product trapped, and how much water could not be trapped and would cling to shoes, shown by how many footfalls left behind a distinct watery footprint.



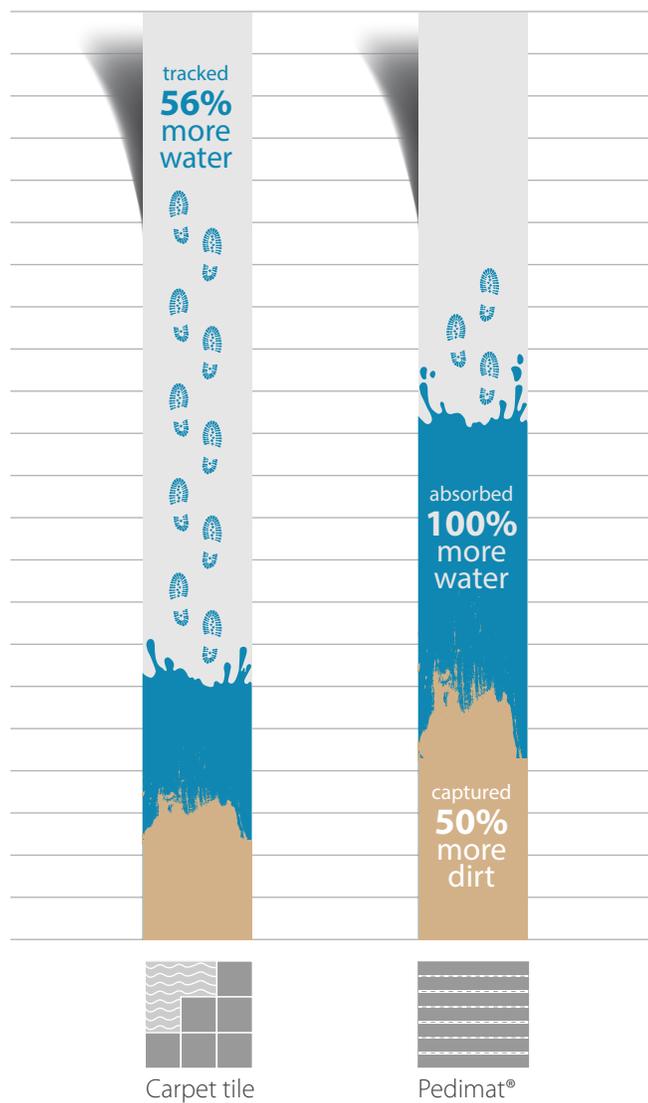


Results

What can we learn from the recorded testing data?

Pedimat captured 50% more dirt and sand than the same length of carpet tiles. Pedimat had a cleaner appearance on the surface. This is because it is designed to allow the dirt and moisture to fall into the recess below. Carpet tiles can only collect dirt on the surface, making it more difficult to hide the trapped dirt. Because carpet tiles have no fall-through capabilities, they allow dirt to be carried farther into the building.

The leading manufacturer's carpet tile showed heavy saturation at one gallon of water, whereas Pedimat absorbed 100% more water, showing moderate saturation at two gallons. The carpet tile samples, with the presence of one gallon, allowed water to be tracked 18-20 feet past the testing area. Pedimat showed tracked moisture at 10-12 feet past the testing area with the same amount of water. **Pedimat was 44% more effective at retaining water within the system than the carpet tile sample.**





Conclusion

How does the ROI of both products compare?

This experiment confirmed entrance matting is superior in strength, durability and functionality to carpet tiles. Though traditional entrance mat and grid systems may have a higher initial price tag, the benefits reaped over the course of their lifetime are far superior to carpet tiles.

		Carpet tile	Pedimat®
Initial cost	Carpet tiles are \$8+/square foot; Pedimat is \$20+/square foot	✓	✗
Dirt trapping	Pedimat held 50% more dirt	✗	✓
Water absorption	Pedimat absorbed 100% more water	✗	✓
Water tracking	Pedimat yielded less tracked water	✗	✓
Long-term ROI	Pedimat can last 15+ years and reduces maintenance costs	✗	✓
Stylish	Unique design options are available	✓	✓

