



Designation: D 5684 – 06

## Standard Terminology Relating to Pile Floor Coverings<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5684; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This terminology is a compilation of all terminology developed by Subcommittee D13.21 on Pile Floor Covering.

1.2 This terminology is unique to the pile floor covering industry. Meanings if the same terms used outside the industry can be found in other compilations or in other dictionaries of general usage.

1.3 In addition to being a specialized dictionary, D 5684 is also useful for managing the Terminology of the Subcommittee.

1.4 Terms listed under the jurisdiction of Subcommittee D13.21.

1.5 For definitions of other textile terms see Terminology D 123.

1.6 This terminology is a compilation of all terminology developed by Subcommittee D13.21 on Pile Floor Covering.

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D 1335 Test Method for Tuft Bind of Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

D 2646 Test Methods for Backing Fabric Characteristics of Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

D 3936 Test Method for Resistance to Delamination of the Secondary Backing of Pile Yarn Floor Covering

D 5251 Practice for the Operation of the Tetrapod Walker Drum Tester

D 5252 Practice for the Operation of the Hexapod Tumble Drum Tester

D 5417 Practice for Operation of the Vettermann Drum Tester

D 5793 Test Method for Binding Sites per Unit Length or Width of Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

D 5823 Test Method for Tuft Height of Pile Floor Coverings

D 5848 Test Method for Mass Per Unit Area of Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

D 6119 Practice for Creating Surface Appearance Changes in Pile Yarn Floor Covering from Foot Traffic

D 6283 Test Method for Tuft Element Length of Uncoated Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

D 6540 Test Method for Accelerated Soiling of Pile Yarn Floor Covering

D 6719 Guide for Test Methods and Practices for Evaluating Pile Yarn Floor Covering

D 6859 Test Method for Pile Thickness of Finished Level Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

D 6962 Practice for Operation of a Roller Chair Tester for Pile Yarn Floor Coverings

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

**attached cushion, *n***— *for pile yarn floor covering*, a material, bonded to the backing fabric side of a pile yarn floor covering to provide additional dimensional stability, thickness, and padding.

DISCUSSION—Such products as foam, rubber, and urethane are used as attached cushion. (D 3936)

**back coating, *n***— *in textile floor covering*, an adhesive compound applied for such purpose as locking pile yarn tufts into a carpet backing, bonding a secondary backing to a primary backing, increasing fabric body or stiffness and increasing dimensional stability. (D 5793, D 5848)

**backing, *n***— *in pile yarn floor covering*, all materials in a pile floor covering other than the pile yarn. (D 5793, D 5848, D 6719)

**backing fabric, *n***— *in textiles*, a fabric into which a pile yarn is inserted; or a reinforcing layer which is adhered to the reverse side of a fabric.

DISCUSSION—In woven and knitted pile yarn floor coverings the backing fabric is created at the same time the pile yarn is bound to the backing fabric, but, in tufted pile yarn floor coverings, the backing fabric is made prior to the operation in which the pile yarn is fastened to the backing fabric. (D 2646, D 5793, D 5848, D 6719)

<sup>1</sup> This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.21 on Pile Floor Coverings.

Current edition approved June 1, 2006. Published July 2006. Originally approved in 1995. Last previous edition approved in 2004 as D 5684 – 04a

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For Annual Book of ASTM Standards volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

**binding site**, *n*—for pile yarn floor covering, a point at which the pile yarn is, or can be, bound to the backing fabric.

**DISCUSSION**—In any machine-made pile yarn floor covering, the binding sites occur in an orderly and repetitive array at uniform intervals both in the lengthwise and widthwise directions of the pile yarn floor covering. The nature of the binding sites differs among woven, knitted, and tufted pile yarn floor coverings. For example, the binding site of a woven pile yarn floor covering consists of one or more filling shots under which the face yarn passes, whereas the binding site of a tufted pile yarn floor covering consists of a section of backing fabric between two adjacent needle holes in the lengthwise direction. The number of pile yarn strands that can be fastened at one binding site can vary from one to several, according to the design. (D 5793, D 5848, D 6283, D 6719)

**buried pile yarn**, *n*—for coated pile yarn floor covering, the part of pile yarn tufts which is in or under the primary backing.

**carpet**, *n*—all textile floor coverings not designated as rugs. (D 5793, D 5848)

**carpet**, *n*—all textile floor coverings not designated as rugs. (D 1335, D 2646, D 3936, D 5251, D 5252, D 5417, D 5793, D 5848, D 6119, D 6283, D 6540, D 6719, D 6859, D 6962, )

**carpet module**, *n*—textile floor covering sections usually having dimensions of less than 1 m<sup>2</sup>. (D 5848)

**change in surface appearance**—for pile yarn floor covering, the physical affect of changing the use-surface by mechanical means or foot traffic.

**DISCUSSION**—The change in surface appearance is the cumulative change in appearance between the unexposed and exposed test specimens due to matting, crushing, and loss of tuft definition. (D 6119, D 6719 )

**components**, *n*—for pile yarn floor covering, the individual yarn or fabric elements into which a pile yarn floor covering can be separated. (D 5793, D 5848)

**crush**, *n*—in pile yarn floor coverings, loss of tuft definition due to entanglement and compression of pile fibers. (D 6119)

**cut pile yarn floor covering**, *n*—a pile floor covering in which the pile is composed of adjacent tuft elements that are separated or cut (see Fig. 1). (D 1335, D 5823, D 6283)

**delamination**—See *resistance to delamination*.

**dents per unit width**, *n*—for woven pile floor covering, the number of binding sites per unit width; dents being the reed spaces through which the warp yarns pass in the loom or the metal strips in the reed that form these spaces. (D 2646)

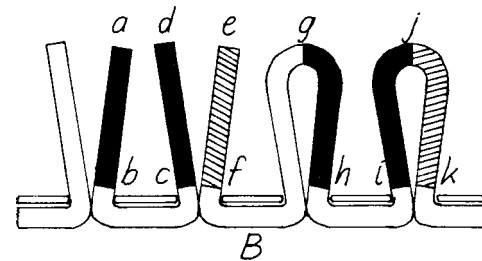
**durability**, *n*—for pile yarn floor coverings, a property of a pile yarn floor covering describing the ability to maintain specific physical properties or product integrity without deterioration after a significant amount of time or a significant extended stress. (D 6962)

**finished**, *adj*—in textile floor covering materials, the completion of all manufacturing operations. (D 1335, D 2646, D 3936, D 5251, D 5252, D 5417, D 5793, D 5823, D 5848, D 6119, D 6283, D 6540, D 6719, D 6859, D 6962 )

**finished pile yarn floor covering**, *n*—in textile floor covering materials, the pile yarn floor covering that has undergone all of the steps of the manufacturing process.

(D 1335, D 2646, D 3936, D 5251, D 5252, D 5417, D 5793, D 5823, D 5848, D 6119, D 6283, D 6540, D 6719, D 6859, D 6962)

**floor covering**, *n*—an essentially planar material, having a relatively small thickness in comparison to its length or width, that is laid on a floor to enhance the beauty, comfort, and utility of the floor. (D 1335, D 2646, D 3936, D 5251,



ad = cut pile tuft element  
 gj = loop pile tuft element  
 ab, cd, ef, gh, ij, jk = tuft legs  
 cd, ef = cut pile tuft leg pair  
 ij, jk = loop pile tuft leg pair, a loop  
 B = one binding site

FIG. 1 Cross Section of Tufted Pile Yarn Floor Covering

(D 5252, D 5417, D 5793, D 5823, D 5848, D 6119, D 6283, D 6540, D 6719, D 6859, D 6962 )

**foot traffic units**, *n*—for pile floor covering, the number of passes by human walkers over a specific group of carpet samples. (D 6119)

**lengthwise direction**, *n*—for pile yarn floor covering, the direction in a machine-made textile floor covering parallel to the direction of movement during the manufacturing process. (D 5684)

**DISCUSSION**—In machine-made goods the lengthwise direction in applicable to tufted and woven pile yarn floor coverings. (D 1335, D 2646, D 3936, D 5251, D 5252, D 5417, D 5793, D 5823, D 5848, D 6119, D 6283, D 6540, D 6859, D 6962 )

**level pile**, *n*—for pile yarn floor covering, pile in which all tuft legs are of substantially the same length. (D 5823)

**loop pile yarn floor covering**, *n*—a pile yarn floor covering in which the pile is composed only of uncut loops (see Fig. 1). (D 1335, D 5823, D 6283, D 6859)

**loss of tuft definition**, *n*—for pile yarn floor coverings, the bursting, opening, and untwisting of pile yarn, decrimping of the fibers in the surface pile, or any combination of these. (D 6119)

**matting**, *n*—for pile yarn floor coverings, loss of tuft definition due to entanglement. (D 6119)

**multilevel pile**, *n*—for pile yarn floor covering, pile in which some tuft legs are substantially longer than others, resulting in a sculptured appearance or pattern. (D 5848)

**needles per unit width**, *n*—for tufted pile yarn floor covering, the number of binding sites per unit of floor covering width; needles being the means of inserting the pile yarn into the backing fabric. (D 5793)