

Guide to Floor and Wall Coverings

General Guidelines

- Because solid colors reveal every stain and mark, choose a carpet, vinyl or linoleum that is mottled or flecked.
- Choose subdued patterns and colors that will make the room look larger, help create a calmer environment and reduce over-stimulation.

Carpeting

- Good quality, thick, dense carpet is more durable and responds to cleaning better than thinner carpets of lesser quality. Look for at least a 5-year warranty. A ten-year warranty is preferred.
- Carpeting adds softness, a major indicator of program quality.
- Large remnants, bound at the edges, can also be used.
- Nylon carpeting or blends that are mainly nylon, with a minimum of 26-ounce face weight, are the best choice.
- Use water-based glues that are non-toxic.
- Use padding under all carpeting. The padding should be made from natural materials.

Flooring for messy and eating areas

- Consider both vinyl resilient flooring (a synthetic material) and linoleum (made from natural products).
- Vinyl and linoleum with a matte finish is less slippery.
- Tile is generally too slippery for this area.

Tile floors (for bathrooms)

- Avoid large ceramic tiles in classrooms and bathrooms since they are too slippery when wet.
- Smaller tiles are less slippery because they have more grout surface.
- Matte surface tiles are less slippery than glazed finishes.
- Look for tile with a Slip Resistance/Coefficient of Friction Rating: Wet: .60 Dry: .70 which is required for commercial applications to meet or exceed ADA (American with Disabilities Act) Guidelines.

Bathroom walls

- A basic ceramic tile is recommended for this grant. These tiles are functional and reasonably priced.
- The grant reviewers will be looking for waterproof wall coverings in the bathroom. Other waterproof wall coverings may be good choices.