

Ege Carpets recycle used carpets in new take-back system



Rune Stephansen, CEO,
Ege Carpets



The Danish carpet giant Ege Carpets has launched a new take-back system where used carpets are collected and recycled into new materials. The system is another step towards producing the world's best and most sustainable carpets.

Today, only 1-3% of all carpets in Europe are reused or recycled, while the rest is sent to incineration or landfill. Herning-based carpet manufacturer Ege Carpets will now help improve this statistic with a new take-back system, Ege CircleBack. Here, used carpets are collected and converted into new materials, which can be used to produce new carpets, among other things.

"We live in a world where far too many products are destroyed directly after use, even though the materials can still be used for many other purposes. Therefore, we're looking into how we as a company can utilise the resources in the best way and as much as possible. With Ege CircleBack, we optimise both our own choices of raw materials so that they're more recycled or recyclable, and make sure that their longevity is lengthened as much as possible," says Ege Carpets' CEO, Rune Stephansen.

He also explains that the new take-back system is part of the ambition to produce the world's best and most sustainable carpets, which the company presented last year.

CO₂ emissions are reduced by up to 60%

When an Ege CircleBack carpet has reached the end of its purpose, it's collected and cut into smaller pieces, which are sorted into components that are transformed into new materials such as new yarn for new carpets. Afterwards, Ege Carpets calculate the total CO₂ reduction for the customer, who can have the results documented in a certificate. With the take-back system, the carpet's CO₂ emissions during the elimination phase are reduced by up to 60%.

"Documentation is always good when you want to work actively with sustainability. Therefore, we've chosen to include certificates as part of the take-back system, which our customers can use as documentation in their carbon accounting in the sustainability report," says Rune Stephansen.

Initially, Ege CircleBack is implemented on Ege Carpets' ten best-selling wall-to-wall collections in Europe. The goal is for all the manufacturer's carpets to be subject to a take-back or recycling system by 2030.

Ege CircleBack has been developed in collaboration with the yarn manufacturer Aquafil, which recycles the fibre material in the carpets to produce new nylon yarn, which will be used in the production of new carpets, for example.

About Ege Carpets

Ege Carpets is one of Europe's largest carpet manufacturers, founded in 1938 and headquartered in Herning, Denmark. The company produces and sells tufted and woven carpet for the contract and residential markets, especially for hotels, offices and marine, and is also a supplier to institutions and projects in the healthcare, transport and retail industries. In the past year, Ege Carpets have produced almost 6 million m² of carpet for the global market.

Link to press releases and photos

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