



**HIGH
LIGHT**
floors

WHAT LIES BENEATH

Choosing suitable flooring for each area is a vital step in new home design. **By Annie Reid**

Know your twisted pile from your flat weave? Chances are probably not — unless you're an expert in flooring. For most people, whether it's carpet, rugs, timber or laminates, making the right choice for each room can be overwhelming.

Chadstone Carpet Court managing director, Malcolm Garner, recommends using a process of elimination. "You work out the area you need covered, what colour to apply and then which material type is best," he says.

Cost is always a factor in decision making — and for some it may rule out pure wool carpets. For hallways, stairways, bedrooms and living areas, Garner recommends a product similar to his Vitality carpet range, which comprises 80 per cent wool and 20 per cent nylon. He explains this is a twist pile carpet, with yarn that lies in different directions. It is a hard-wearing option that retains its appearance over time.

"This is our top-selling carpet, particularly in our latte colours," he says.

Once the floors are in place, the next step is protection with rugs.

M & M's Rug Shop in Bentleigh East makes the decision-making process easy with its try-before-you-buy system.

"You have to love the rug itself, and not get hung up on trying to match it perfectly to an exact colour — go for an overall feel," owner David Moore advises.

Right now, Moore says the hottest trend in flooring is shag pile rugs.

"They're easy to buy and generally come in just one block of colour, and the earthy colours such as beiges, greys and browns are the most popular at the moment."

As for what's best in each room, stick to less fussy materials for hardwearing areas, such as polypropylene synthetic fibre rugs. They're also much easier to clean.

"But if you want something to roll around on with the kids there's nothing like pure wool," he says. ■



Clockwise from top: Hali Rugs' handtufted 'ikat' rugs define a room (from \$690); Carpet Court's 'Peace of Mind' carpets come in a variety of shades (POA); Shag pile rugs are ever-popular, such as the M & M Rugs Shop 'Divine' collection (from \$450); Tribe Home's wool 'Pura Vida' range adds a little luxury (\$1200 for 200 x 300cm size)