We had carpet squares when I was at Plymouth District Library and they were awesome!  Whenever there was an issue, we could pop up the ruined tile and put down a new one within minutes!

Suzy Migrin

Head of Children's Services

Pronoun: She

Redford Township District Library

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Redford, MI 48240
Phone: (313) 531-5960

We went with Floor Trader out of Saginaw (I just had carpet & laminate replaced, very happy with them). I spoke with the owner at length, and he brought up some issues with carpet squares. They don't last as long as regular carpet, and if you replace one square, it's still not going to match due to wear and tear of carpets around it.

Hope this helps!

Amber L Hughey, MLIS

Director

Bridgeport Public Library

989-777-6030

I’ve been involved with a number of recarpeting jobs in my role at our library.

A couple of things:

1.       I hate carpet squares. It sounds great to just be able to pop up a square, and replace it. However they can discolor over time. And shrink a bit. And dirt eventually grinds into the edges. Then they really look bad. According to my excellent carpet guy, it’s just as easy to patch a specific bad area, from a bit of remnant left over.

2.       For high traffic areas, we pay a little extra and get some impermeable backing on the carpet, so that any wet spills can actually be extracted, instead of sinking into the carpet and continuing to spread underneath forever, and attracting new dirt.

3.       We pay a little extra to the best installer, and almost never have any follow-up, rather than trying to save a little by hiring a cheaper guy, and then having repair issues.

Hope this helps,

Anne E Oyerly

*Building & Special Collections Manager*

James White Library

Andrews University

269-471-6117

We've been very happy with carpet tiles! Allows us to replace a couple in bad shape due to spills or snags so can keep things looking in better shape.

Matt Church, Library Director

Berkley Public Library

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Berkley, MI 48072

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I'm working on getting a similar project off the ground, in the children's department.  We plan on carpet squares, seems that's becoming the standard recommendation.  If you haven't yet, consider contacting Library Design Associates, Inc., in Plymouth.  They've worked in dozens of libraries around the state, and came to me highly recommended.  I've met with representatives and interior design staff a few times, and they have been extremely helpful in getting me the information and knowledge I need to put the project together.  They definitely know their stuff!  Hope that helps!

Donald Priest
Director
Southgate Veterans Memorial Library
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Southgate MI 48195
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Both times I’ve been involved with carpet replacement, it has been primarily with carpet squares.  Having the ability to replace just a small section of the carpet if it gets ruined has proven very convenient.

Do think about the bottoms of your chair legs and add some sliders though, so that anything on the bottom of them doesn’t catch on the new carpet or on the edge of a square and start them fraying.  We added some nail-in sliders to all the feet on our chairs when we noticed that happening in high-use areas, though I think that had more to do with the condition of the chair feet than it did with the carpet.

 In our experience re-carpeting public and private libraries for the last 12+ years, we find that carpet tiles are what work best.  It allows for plenty of flexibility in the space, intricate or simple patterns, and allows for tiles to be swapped out if any become stained or damaged.

We always recommend that all shelving and furniture be moved during our carpeting project, which our movers can do very efficiently.  This allows for all existing carpet to be replaced with new.  If you choose to cut around shelving so it doesn’t have to be moved, then you are stuck with the floor plan layout that you have now.  If you wanted to move any shelving in the future, you would be left with the old carpet where the shelving used to be installed.

One other thing to note - if you wish to make any floor plan layout changes, now would be the time to discuss that idea.  Since the furniture/shelving will most likely move for the carpeting, it avoids doubling up on moving costs to provide a slightly different layout.

Hopefully that helps out!  If I can help with any additional information, I would be more than happy to.

Thank you,

Kyle Haning

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