

One misunderstood characteristic of carpet is called “cornrowing.” This characteristic has the appearance, somewhat, of a corn field in late fall after the corn has been picked but the stalks were not cut. Some of the corn stalks will be standing erect, others will be broken, and others laying on the ground between the rows. A similar appearance may develop on the higher cut pile, lower density carpet and rugs.

The tufting machine is set to insert the prescribed number of face yarns in the back. As the carpet or rug is made, the face yarns will stand erect. After the carpet or rug is placed on the floor and subjected to use, there will be considerable pressure placed on the individual face yarns. If the density is high enough, the surrounding tufts help to hold each other erect; however, as the density is decreased, there is less support from the adjacent tufts and some of the tufts may be pushed over. The crushing of these tufts increases the density and this, in turn, helps to hold the other tufts erect and create the cornrowed appearance.

Crushing of the pile produces the cornrowing; therefore, it is not considered a manufacturing defect. It is what is to be expected of higher cut pile carpet or rugs with lower densities.

Cornrowing develops in the traffic areas or those areas subjected to mechanical action such as in front of chairs, television sets, etc. Vacuuming alone will not raise the fallen yarns. Specially designed carpet rakes will lift the yarns; however, this will not keep them erect as the yarns will be crushed again when subjected to foot traffic.