

# Care for Your Stairs

by Sam Martin

Without a doubt, if your home is anything like mine, the carpet on your stairs takes quite a beating on a daily basis. This is why most carpeting on stairs will last only about half as long as other carpeted areas in the average home, and this little factoid is no big secret to the carpeting manufacturers. That is why NO carpeting on stairs is ever covered under any manufacturer's warranty. But don't get discouraged, because with a little bit of info, the next time you find your home is ready for new carpeting on the stairs, you can avoid being just another bad statistic.

**1.]** Avoid light colors, especially in wool carpets. Since your stairs get the majority of traffic in the home, they're also going to be the most prone to soiling and stains.



**2.]** If using a light color, try to find one that has some texture or pattern variation. This will help hide the inevitable wear pattern that is common on stair noses.



**3.]** Avoid velvet cut piles. These carpets have a super soft and beautiful finish that is very unforgiving to the relentless traffic most staircases get.



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## What's in a Landing?

*You've heard us say it before... "Every staircase is different!"*

This is becoming even more of a true statement as new custom homes pop up all over Naperville. In these new homes, we're seeing more and more wood staircases that have 90 degree landings as the stairs wind up to the second floor. The carpet industry has introduced some beautiful stair runners that look like oriental rugs as a way to draw attention to the stairs.

These runners (which have borders on each side) work great on a staircase, but cause major problems when a staircase curves and turns.

Here at Russell Martin, we have a few tricks up our sleeves to make these runners "turn" on landings. Sam, one of our installation managers, has perfected the art of cutting apart a runner and its borders and reconstructing it to fit on a landing with minimal interruption of the pattern! This is no easy task (it takes hours of work and analyzing to get it just right), but the result is a custom stair runner that is made solely for your home.



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**Karastan** & Russell Martin offer you this special promotion on an impressive selection of Karastan styles, colors, patterns and textures. Our professional design staff will help you find the perfect carpet or rug for your lifestyle. To schedule a free design consultation or measure, call us today at **630-961-1312**.

*Looking forward to seeing you here, where Every Step of the Way Matters!*

**Dave & The Russell Martin Team**



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# Custom Staircases

by Russell Martin



This staircase is a beautiful example of a split landing. The roll runner is **Karastan's Empress Kirman**, in black.

If you look closely you will see that the edge of the lower stair section follows straight through the landing to align with the upper section. Keeping the edges of the runner aligned allows for a neater overall appearance.

*The approximate cost of this is \$3000 to \$3500.*



This stair case is with **Godfrey Hirst Reserve** and is an extremely complex pattern with radius stairs that are in the "Hollywood" style.

*The approximate cost of this is \$6000 plus.*

This dramatic staircase shows a high-contrast black and ivory pattern installed in the "Hollywood" style. This installation type was necessary because the bottom three steps have curved radius edges.

The large, swooping pattern beautifully enhances the dramatic stairs. The carpet is a wool, woven **Axminster from Brintons**.

*The approximate cost of this is \$3500 to \$5000.*



This lovely, curved staircase is carpeted with **Couristan's All Over Vase**, broadloom in wool and faux silk.

The unique part of this photo is that the pattern repeat of this carpet was similar enough to the stair depth that we were able to cut each tread individually, this allows for the same pattern on each step, with little waste of materials.

*The approximate cost of this is \$2500 to \$3000.*



This is an example of a beautifully constructed staircase that was carpeted in a way that elegantly enhances the details rather than competing with them.

The carpet is **Karastan, wool loop** installed in the "Hollywood" style.

*The approximate cost of this is \$1000 to \$1500.*

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