

Local carpet retailer solves stair dilemma

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Sun staff

A national carpet retailer is adopting a new installation technique developed by a Naperville franchisee.

Russell Martin Carpet and Rugs of Naperville is the second-largest independent dealer of Karastan carpeting in Illinois. When installation manager Sam Martin had a new idea for installing custom staircase runners, the folks at Karastan listened and took Sam's advice.

"Many of the new homes in Naperville have beautiful wooden staircases that look great with an oriental-style rug staircase runner," Martin said. "The problem was making sure the runner turned on a landing with a 90-degree angle without interrupting the pattern."

At a recent national flooring design show, the Martins found that none of the carpet manufacturers had developed a solution to what was becoming a common problem. Because of Russell Martin's excellent relationship with Karastan, Sam approached Bill Storey, president of Karastan, with his idea. He agreed that Sam would make a prototype of his design and the company would manufacture the model.



Submitted photo. A new installation technique shows a stairway runner pattern uninterrupted as it turns going down the stairs.

Karastan is now manufacturing the stair runners, just like the ones Sam Martin developed - expediting installation time and creating a revolution in the industry.

Russell Martin Carpet and Rugs, Ltd. is located at 633 N. Washington St., Naperville. Contact them at 630-961-1312 or visit www.rmcarpets.com.