WWF - UK

Chemicals and health in the home

Living Room

Avoid
- synthetic carpets, carpet underlay or upholstery with synthetic foams, foam rubber, latex or plastic coverings, because these emit VOCs;
- chemical finishes such as stain repellents and brominated flame retardants on furniture or carpets;
- re-carpeting or ripping out carpets if you are pregnant.

Buy
- carpets made from organic natural fibres such as wool, cotton, rattan or jute;
- curtains, carpets or upholstery containing little or no brominated flame retardants or stain repellents;
- computers and monitors carrying the TCO 95 eco-label, which limits the amount of brominated flame retardant in the product.

Change

Volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) are a range of chemicals, many of which have hazardous properties. Some are carcinogenic and can irritate our lungs, and some may also be greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.