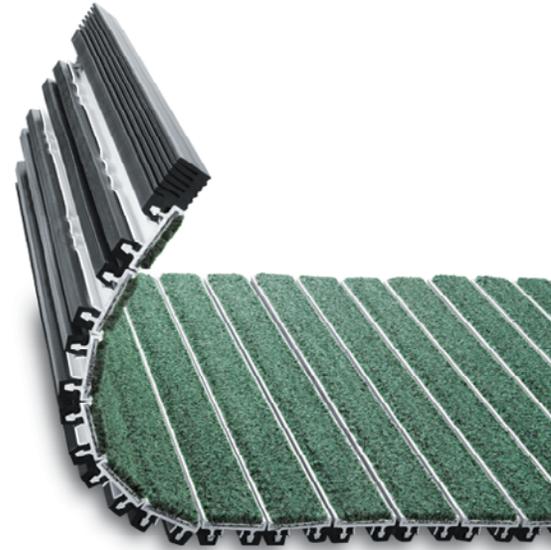




Choosing Entrance Mats for a Budget-Conscious Project



In today's construction industry, value engineering is an unfortunate last resort to make projects work. Budgets get tight at the end of a project, so drastic changes may be implemented to stay on track. Architects, owners and installers must rely heavily on product manufacturers for their product expertise and recommendations to avoid a value-engineered project.

Because entrance mats and grids are usually one of the last products to be installed in a building, they can be one of the first to be removed or reduced in the project's scope.

If value engineering is anticipated, proactivity during the design phase can help an owner get the product they want without going over budget. Consider the following product characteristics to help your team save money on your scope:

Metal Options

Choosing aluminum over stainless steel can provide cost savings without affecting performance. Consider anodizing the aluminum rails to add more aesthetic value.

Shapes

Avoiding complicated notches, radial cutting and odd shapes are easy ways to lower costs. Use rectangular, standard shapes and avoid going wall-to-wall in large vestibules. Place the entrance mat or grid only in portions of the entrance that will be walked on.

Finishes

For metal surfaces, consider specifying a standard mill finish instead of an anodized or powder coat finish. When selecting tread inserts, side with standard, heavy-duty carpet inserts over recycled rubber or poured abrasive inserts. Carpet is just as effective and will help you stay within your budget.



Entry points

If you are adamant about using a higher-end product, consider installing it at a main entrance and using lower-cost options at back door or ancillary entrances. Only spend extra money where you can make the biggest statement.

Depth

Drain pans and deep pit frames are unnecessary in many situations. Consider using a standard shallow-framed system instead of a deeper one. Shallow frames will hold more than enough dirt in most applications. Think about substituting a concrete sealer to enforce water tightness instead of using a metal drain pan.

Product choice

While high-end products can be visually striking and enhance the aesthetic value of a building, they may not be the best fit for every project or budget. Be conscientious of your project's monetary limitations and choose an effective product that will fit your building's design intentions and save your bottom line.

Conclusion

Any budget-conscious project can have an attractive and functional entrance flooring system without worrying about excessive cost-cutting throughout the project.

Avoid removing your entrance mat or grid altogether and don't resort to a less expensive carpet tile or a rental mat program.

Find a happy medium with a fully functional entrance flooring option that doesn't break the bank.



For assistance on selecting the best product options for your project's budget, contact a CS product specialist at **800.233.8493** or **floor@c-sgroup.com**.