

# Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

## Hopes for a sustainable future



Axminster Carpets is in rescue talks with potential buyers. According to Sky News, the 265-year-old royal warrant holder filed a notice of intention to appoint administrators on Wednesday.

Jonathan Young, its managing director, said that he was "*encouraged by the level of interest in investing in our brand*". Nevertheless, Administrators Duff and Phelps are on standby as the company tries to avoid collapsing for the second time in seven years. There are about 90 jobs that are thought to be at risk in Devon if the company enters administration.

Additionally, Mr Young remarked that working on a "*sustainable future*" for the company was "*important for the local town, our employees, suppliers and customers who value the quality of craftsmanship*". A controlling stake in the historic carpet maker was bought by a Yorkshire-based wool supplier in 2016.

Axminster Carpets was previously rescued in 2013. It had gone into administration, also overseen by Duff and Phelps, but was bought out by a consortium led by the private investor Stephen Boyd. At the time, the firm lost about 300 of 400 jobs. It had been one of the county's largest private employers.

The organization has a rich history indeed. The origins of the luxury carpet maker can be traced back to Thomas Whitty, who began making carpets and rugs in the town in 1755 using what became known as the Axminster method of weaving.

The first carpets were bought by the likes of King George III and Queen Charlotte, who visited the factory. The family firm went out of business in the 1830s, but the tradition was revived in the town in 1937, when Harry Dutfield, the son of a Glasgow carpet designer, founded the current company.

According to its website, Axminster's legendary products have been installed in prestigious residential and commercial establishments such as: Clarence House, the Brighton Pavilion and Twickenham Stadium.

Floor Covering Media publishes  
press releases called Flooring Updates.

## Flooring Updates



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## Flooring Network

For those in the market and those that serve it

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## Floor Search

Answers to Questions About Flooring

Retrieve timely, objective news and  
information at <https://www.floorsearch.info>.