

Cleaning Your Carpet

While vacuuming removes most dry soil, the oily soil of cooking vapors, air pollution and grime tracked in from the street present a decidedly different type of problem. These particles of oily soil deposited on carpet fibers can cause gradual - but significant - dulling of delicate pastel colors. The color isn't actually lost. It's hidden under a dirty film.

If this type of soil is allowed to accumulate, it literally glues the pile fiber together, resulting in matting, packing or ridges. Equally worrisome, it begins to attract and hold dry soil. That's why cleaning is so important when dulling of the fiber is first noticed. If allowed to remain too long, it becomes gummy and difficult to remove.

For Dry Cleaning Only Products:

- We recommend a dry cleaning agent such as Capture®, Host® and Dri-Mate® or the WoolClean Spot Dry Remover™ available from Wools of New Zealand.
- Test area first.
- Vacuum brush should barely skim surface carpet to trap soil just under pile. (Any further aggressive brush setting will cause carpet to pill).

Dry Dry Foam and Absorbent Pad

Fluffy detergent foam is worked into pile by a variety of machines. Once dry, the residue is vacuumed out. This method uses little water, dries fast and cleans the surface well; however, overbrushing can damage some carpets.

Steam Cleaning (Hot Water Extraction)

Extraction of the cleaning solution and soil leaves little residue and no pile damage, although caution is required to prevent overwetting. Avoid using too much detergent. Follow up with plain water. Recommended for all carpet types, this method is most effective when performed by a professional using an external hot water extraction unit.

Caution: The rotary brush wet shampoo method is not recommended for residential carpet as damage may result. Moreover, some do-it-yourself products in aerosol cans may cause rapid re-soiling due to excessive residues. Test on a scrap first. If the dried product feels sticky, don't use it. And avoid all cleaning agents containing an optical brightener (fluorescence) such as those found in many laundry detergents and some carpet cleaning systems.

Stain Removal

No carpet is stain proof. However many are treated to be stain resistant which gives you time to act. Remember, with spot and stain removal, speed is of essence. Immediately after a stain or spill occurs, solids should be scooped up and liquids blotted as quickly as possible. Absorb as much liquid as possible with a paper towel, etc., replacing as they become saturated. Never use a scrubbing motion. Blot instead to prevent the carpet surface from fuzzing.

Stain Treatment

For effective spot cleaning, you'll need the following items. The item numbers are keyed to the stain - and all should be used in the recommended sequence. Some stains may require professional cleaning, depending on the age of the stain.

1. Cold Water
2. Detergent Solution. Mix one teaspoon of clear dishwashing liquid with a cup of warm (not hot) water.
3. Ammonia Solution. Mix one tablespoon of clear household ammonia (3% solution) with 1/2 cup of water.
4. Solvent. A dry cleaning solvent (available at grocery, drug and hardware stores).
5. Ice. Chill with ice cubes in a plastic bag. Shatter residue, pick or scrape off and vacuum.
6. Vinegar Solution. Mix 1/3 cup of white vinegar with 2/3 cup of water.
7. Warm Water (not hot)
8. Clear nail polish remover (preferably acetone)
9. Alcohol or Methylated Spirits Mineral Turpentine
10. Rust Remover
11. Absorbent Powder (e.g., salt, talc or proprietary absorbent powders)
12. Absorbent Cleaners (e.g., Host)

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Alcoholic Beverages	1	2	-
Bleach	1	3	-
Blood	1	2	-
Butter	4	2	-
Candle Wax	5	4	-
Chewing Gum	5	4	-
Chocolate	2	3	6
Coffee	1	2	4
Colas and soft drinks	7	2	-
Cooking Oils	4	2	-
Cream	2	4	-
Egg	2	-	-
Felt tip pen	7	2	8
Floor wax	4	-	-

Fruit Juice	1	2	-
Furniture polish	4	2	3
Gravy and sauces	7	2	-
Ink (fountain pen)	1	2	-
Ink (ball point)	4	9	2
Ketchup	7	2	-
Lipstick	4	2	-
Mercurochrome	2	3	6
Milk	7	4	2
Mustard	2	-	-
Nail Polish	8	4	-
Oil and Grease	4	2	-
Paint (latex)	2	3	4
Paint (oil)	9	4	2
Rust	4	2	10
Salad Dressing	2	4	-
Shoe Polish	4	2	-
Soot	4	2	3
Tar	4	-	-
Tea	1	2	4
Urine (fresh)	1	2	-
Urine (old)	2	3	6
Vomit	2	-	-
Wine	11	1	2
Unknown material	4	12	2