

Carpet Care Tips



Keep your carpet looking and performing great requires the right kind of care including:

1. Frequent Vacuuming
2. Periodic Professional Cleaning
3. Prompt, Correct Removal of Spots and Spills

GUIDELINES FOR REMOVING SPOTS

1. Never use a circular motion to remove a spot. It can destroy the surface texture of the carpet.
2. To prevent “wick up” always rinse with clean water as the final cleaning step. Blot dry and stack several white paper towels over the damp area. Place a brick or similarly weighted object on the towels will absorb any stain wicking up from the backing to the carpet surface. Allow carpet to dry, remove the brick and towels, and brush up the pile.
3. Test any solution on an inconspicuous are of your carpet to be sure it does not affect the color or texture of your carpet. Do not use the solution if color in the test area marks off on a white paper towel.

WHAT DO I DO IF A SPOT RETURNS

A spot will usually return for two reasons:

1. Incomplete removal. You removed the material causing the spot by dissolving it with cleaning solution. However, gravity pulled the spill deeper into your carpet. Blotting with absorbent towels removed most of it, but as it dried, the remainder of the spill migrated to the top of your carpet and appeared as the last of the moisture evaporated. This is called “wick up.” To remedy, just repeat the spot cleaning process with special emphasis on blotting and placement of the absorbent towels.
2. Detergent left in carpet. Always gently rinse the area with water to remove detergent. You will need to absorb the moisture because incomplete removal will expose the area to more rapid soiling. Place towels or a cloth over the wet area and weight with a heavy, colorfast object to absorb moisture. Leave overnight. The next morning the area should be dry. Brush up the carpet pile.

REMOVAL METHOD 1: Unknown & Greasy Spots

Remove as much foreign material as possible by blotting with a white paper towel or scraping with a dull knife. Apply isopropyl rubbing alcohol to a clean white cloth, white paper towel or cotton ball. If the spot extends deep into the pile, blot until it is removed or no color transfers to the cloth. Do not allow the alcohol to penetrate the backing, as it will destroy the latex bond. If the spot is on the surface only, rub in one direction at a time. If rubbing removes the spot, follow the wick-up procedure previously prescribed. If not, go to Removal Method 3. **REMEMBER!** Never use a circular motion to remove a spot as this may destroy the texture in the spot area.

REMOVAL METHOD 2: Water-Based Spots

Blot up as much of the spill as possible with a white paper towel. Use a wet vacuum for a large spill. If the spot has dried, saturate the tufts in the affected area with tap water (do not overwet). After about a minute, blot up the water. If the water proved effective, continue until the spot is completely removed. Blot dry, and apply the paper towel and brick. If it is not completely removed, go to Removal Method 3.

REMOVAL METHOD 3: When Method 1 &2 Fail

If Removal Methods 1 or 2 fail, try the following: Apply a small amount of detergent solution to the spot (1/4 teaspoon detergent* per 1 qt. of water). Blot with a white paper towel to work the detergent into the affected area. If the spot is being removed, continue applying detergent and blotting until spot is completely removed. Using a spray bottle, rinse with tap water, and then blot to remove excess moisture. Next, spray lightly with water, but instead of blotting, apply a pad of paper towels, weigh them down with a brick and allow to dry. If the stain remains, moisten the tufts in the stained area with 3 percent hydrogen peroxide back to water, no rinsing is necessary. Apply a pad of paper towels and weigh them down with a brick. Allow carpet to dry. Remove brick and towels and brush up the pile.

**Detergent: Hand dish washing detergent that doesn't contain lanolin or bleach, such as Dawn® or Joy®.*