

Maintenance and Cleaning Tips

Carpets, by their very nature, come in for a lot of heavy use, so it's important to follow a few basic suggestions for keeping them in tip top order. Even though the carpet is designed to withstand many spillages, it will still get dirty. So, just follow this simple advice.

1. Vacuum regularly

The more you vacuum your carpet, the longer it'll stay looking good. Try and do it often, to prevent build-up of soil particles in the pile. Pay particular attention to areas of heavy footfall such as doorways and at the foot of chairs or cupboards.

Regular vacuuming can literally extend your carpet's life. The type of vacuum cleaner and vacuum nozzle you use is important. A vacuum performance will vary based on the carpet's fibre type and construction. A good vacuum cleaner typically has features that allow you to adjust the height, beater bar rotation and fan speed.

We only give general advice about vacuum cleaners as there are so many good brands or models. We forward you to consumer review websites for more detailed information.

BEATER BAR

Manual adjustable height of the beater bar is the most important feature because this enables the machine to be used on a wide variety of carpet types. If your vacuum is set too high above the carpet surface, the vacuum can't attract the gritty soil below. If the setting is too low, the vacuum's beater bar or brushes can damage the carpet's surface, causing it to look worn and frayed.

For carpet with a cut pile an adjustable, rotating brush will help loosen deep rooted dirt and particles but this will agitate the yarn.

HEPA, HIGH-EFFICIENCY PARTICULATE ARRESTANCE

Use a vacuum cleaner with a good and efficient HEPA-micro filter system in order to be able to remove fine dust and maintain a good indoor climate. The HEPA filter system extracts 99,97% of pollen, dust, animal scales and other particles.

Upright or cylinder vacuum cleaners

Both are suitable for carpet cleaning. You should base your choice on the area you will be vacuuming and your individual preferences.

Upright vacuum cleaners deliver great performance for carpet, help combat pet hair with their beater bar and typically have large heads to cover more surface area and reduce vacuuming time.

Cylinder vacuum cleaners are smaller and lighter, making them ideal for smaller houses and are more suitable for cleaning a wide range of surfaces, including hard floors, rugs and carpets.

Do you have a thick carpet?

Adjust your vacuum cleaner to the proper height setting to ensure that the beater bar or brush just lightly touches your carpet surface.

Shag pile carpet with long pile yarns tend to wrap around the rotating brushes causing damage to the yarn. For these products we recommend a suction-only vacuum or a vacuum cleaner with an adjustable height of the brush lifted away from the carpet, so it does not agitate the pile.

Choose a vacuum cleaner with large wheels for easy manoeuvrability. Smaller wheels tend to loosen threads, while large wheels easily roll over longer threads and leaving no marks or dents.

Avoid vacuums with super-concentrated suction. They are suitable for low pile carpets and hard surfaces but not for thicker, high pile carpets.

2. Periodical cleaning

It's inevitable that dust and oil particles in the air will leave a dulling film on your carpet over time, and the best way to overcome this is by employing a professional cleaning company that will use cleaning solutions recommended for the carpets.

We recommend once every two years as a healthy balance between keeping the carpet pristine and the clean being worth the action.

- This yarn is a 100% Polyamide yarn also known as Nylon or PA yarn
- It is not sealed fibre
- You can **NOT** use bleach or a bleaching agent on this product.

How to remove stains on a Polyamide carpet

Cleaning procedures

General advice

Don't panic if you spot a stain on your carpet. Today's high-quality carpet fibres allow most stains to be easily removed. However, which cleaning method depends on the type of stain.

REACT QUICKLY

Stains in carpets should always be treated immediately. The earlier you fight the stain, the easier the removal.

- Absorb liquids immediately with an absorbent cloth such as kitchen paper, toilet paper, cotton towel, ...
- Remove solid substances with a spoon. Any remaining residue can be treated.
- The majority of stains can be removed using tepid water.
- When applying cleaning agents, follow instructions on the packaging. Put on a cloth first and not directly onto the carpet and always test first in an inconspicuous area.
- By working your way inwards from the outer edge of a spot, you can prevent the stain from spreading.
- Avoid rubbing the stain, only dab it, as this can cause the stain to spread and damage the carpet.
- After applying the treatment, blot the area as dry as possible by applying pressure with paper towels or absorbent cloth.
- Apply a thick layer of paper towels over the wet area and weigh them down to dry the carpet.
- Brush the pile with your fingers to restore the texture after the area has dried.
- **If you are in any doubt, please contact a local cleaning expert.**

TEPID WATER

Tepid water is lukewarm, meaning that it is neither hot nor cold to the touch. Tepid water consists of two parts cold water and one part boiling water, which renders a temperature of about 40 degrees Celsius, which is round about 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Warning: Chlorine-containing products risk bleaching your carpet.

MORE CLEANING TIPS

Other than **vacuuming**, your carpet needs to be wet cleaned if heavy soiling has occurred or treated promptly in cases of spills or stains. Outlined below are emergency techniques for treating the most common kinds of staining.

Water-based stains

Causes

Things like beer, berries, coffee, cola, excrement, fruit juice, white glue, ice cream, washable ink, ketchup, sauce, soft drinks, tea and wine.

Treatment

Soak up immediately using an absorbent cloth or kitchen roll. If the stain persists use a solution of one teaspoon of neutral detergent such as washing-up liquid to half a pint of warm water. Dry with a hair dryer, continually moving to prevent watermarking.

Greasy stains

Causes

Things like baked beans, blood, butter, chocolate, cooking oil, crayons, gravy, grease, ketchup, mascara, mayonnaise, milk, mustard and petfood.

Treatment

Use methylated spirits, applying with cotton wool to the edges of the stain and work inwards. Don't worry if colours darken during this treatment, just blot with kitchen roll to avoid excessive moisture. Then use a soap solution on cotton wool, dampen the area, blot with kitchen roll and dry with a hair dryer as above.

Dried-in stains

Causes

Any of the water-based foods or drinks as above.

Treatment

Use non-biological washing powder or mix two litres of tepid water with half a teaspoon of carpet shampoo. Re-wet the stain using the soap solution applied with cotton wool and blot with kitchen roll as above.

Other stains

Causes

Things like brown sauce, shoe polish, sherry, toothpaste, urine and vomit.

Treatment

Apply diluted detergent with a damp towel and leave for five minutes. Blot, then rinse with water, followed by a pad of weighted kitchen roll.

Specific stains

Causes

Chewing gum trodden into the carpet.

Treatment

Scrape away excess then freeze with ice cubes. Shatter with blunt object like the back of a spoon and quickly vacuum chips away.

Causes

Hobby glue and nail polish.

Treatment

Apply nail polish remover sparingly with a cotton towel, pick up softened material and push kitchen roll towards centre of spot to avoid it spreading. Repeat this procedure until the stain is removed.

Causes

Candle wax.

Treatment

Scrape off as much wax as you can. Cover with a white cotton towel and apply a warm (not hot) iron. Repeat this procedure with a clean towel each time until the stain is removed.

Causes

Chalk and mud.

Treatment

Vacuum as much as possible. Loosen remaining material by tapping with a small brush, but don't scrub. Vacuum again then use technique for water-based stains as above.

Causes

Lipstick.

Treatment

Scrape off excess lipstick and lightly rub the area with a slice of fresh white bread. Complete the removal as per the greasy stains technique above.

Professional Carpet Cleaning

Vacuuming regularly is the most important step for carpet cleaning. However, deeper extraction cleaning takes care of removing tough, stubborn and deep lying dirt.

There are several deep cleaning techniques. The most common ones are steam cleaning and spray extraction.

How often deep cleaning must be done depends on carpet use and care methods. Do not wait until dirt is visible on the carpet. If the carpet is already heavily dirty cleaning is all the more difficult and expensive and, as a result, its life is considerably reduced.

You should use a recognized professional carpet cleaning company, like the ones you can find on the www.ncca.co.uk website, to undertake the work.