

Carpet Maintenance

SPOT AND SPILL REMOVAL

A good checklist to handle spills should include the following items. Do not use any household cleaners other than those listed, since many household products contain chemicals that may permanently damage your carpet.

- 1) A solution of a mild liquid detergent (no more than 1/4 teaspoon of detergent to 32 ounces of water). A clear, non-bleach liquid dish washing detergent such as Dawn, Joy, or clear Ivory is recommended. Do not use detergents that are cloudy or creamy because they may leave a sticky residue.
- 2) A solution of 1 part white vinegar to 1 part water.
- 3) White cloths or white paper towels.
- 4) An ammonia solution of one tablespoon of ammonia to one cup of water. Do not use on wool or wool-blend products.
- 5) Non-oily nail polish remover.
- 6) Chewing gum remover (freeze or solid type).
- 7) Spot remover specifically for grease, oil, or tar, such as Carbona or Energine.

NOTE: Difficult stains on carpets made from solution-dyed fibers such as polypropylene (olefin) may be removed with a mild bleach solution (one part chlorine bleach to five parts water).

WARNING: Do not use bleach solution unless you are absolutely certain your carpet is 100 percent solution dyed. Carpet dyed by other systems will be damaged. If in doubt, call 1-800-441-SHAW.

General Instructions

Prompt attention to spots and spills is essential. No carpet is stain proof, although many are stain resistant, which allows time to act.

- 1) Remove as much of food spills as possible by scraping gently with a spoon or dull knife.
- 2) Absorb wet spills as quickly as possible by blotting repeatedly with white paper or cloth

towels.

- 3) Always blot; never rub or scrub abrasively, as a fuzzy area may result. When blotting, work from the outer edge in toward the center of the spot to avoid spreading the spill.
- 4) Always follow up with water to remove detergent residue that may become sticky and cause rapid resoiling.
- 5) Draw out any remaining moisture by placing several layers of white towels over the spot and weigh them down with a heavy object that will not transfer color, such as a plastic jug of water.

Stain Removal Procedures

The recommendations on page 16 should be used for spot cleaning. The numbers are keyed to the stain, and all instructions should be used in the recommended sequence. Some stains are marked PRO, indicating that professional knowledge and equipment are necessary.

A. Water Soluble Stains– Absorb as much as possible with white towels. Blot the stained area with white towels dampened with cool water until there is no more transfer of the stain onto the towels. If any of the stain remains, use the detergent solution previously described. Spray lightly onto the spot and blot repeatedly with white towels, working from the outer edge in toward the center of the spot to avoid spreading. Rinse thoroughly by spraying with clean water, and then blot or extract. Do not use too much detergent because the residue will contribute to rapid resoiling.

A-1. As in A, but before using detergent, apply the white vinegar solution to a white towel and blot or spray onto spot.

A-2. As in A, but before using detergent, apply a house-hold ammonia solution to a white towel and blot or spray onto spot. Do not use on wool or wool-blend carpet. Rinse as in A.

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B. Oil-Based Stains– Blot as much as possible with white paper towels. Apply the special oil and grease spot remover to a paper towel and repeat blotting. (Protective gloves should be worn, as the solvent will quickly remove oils from the skin and could result in irritation.) Do not pour or spray directly on the carpet pile, as damage to the backing or adhesive underneath could result; use the towels to transport the solvent to the carpet. Repeat as often as necessary. Provide adequate ventilation! Do not use flammable solvents! Follow with procedures in A.

C. Freeze stains such as chewing gum and candle wax with ice or a commercially available product in an aerosol can. Shatter with a blunt object and vacuum before the chips soften. Follow up with solvent as in B.

D. Bleach– **WARNING– Only carpets which are solution dyed are resistant to bleaching, but do not exceed the recommended concentration. DO NOT USE THIS PROCEDURE UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE CARPET IS SOLUTION DYED– CARPETS DYED BY OTHER SYSTEMS WILL BE DAMAGED.**

Products with olefin and nylon blends can not be exposed to bleach without removing the color from the nylon fibers unless the nylon component is solution dyed. If in doubt, call 1-800-441-SHAW. For solution-dyed carpets with stains such as food dyes, fruit drink, and coffee not removed by A-1, use a solution of one part chlorine bleach to five parts water. Rinse several times with water to remove excess bleach so that none is tracked to other areas where there is conventionally dyed carpet. PRO – Professional cleaner.