



Digitally Printed Carpet ~ Maintenance Sheet

Preventive maintenance

Prevention is always preferable to cure, and stopping dirt at the source is vital if the appearance and quality of carpet throughout your building is to be maintained. Dirt is generally tracked into buildings from outside, and as a critical form of preventive maintenance, walk-off mats should be placed at all entrances to carpeted areas.

To be most effective, mats should accommodate at minimum 5 to 6 footsteps (15-20 feet), and will work as a barrier to trap the majority of soil and grease before it has the chance to reach your interior. Like carpets, walk-off mats must be pile lifted and vacuumed daily and cleaned regularly to maintain their effectiveness.

Irreparable damage

When decorating or renovating, care should be taken to protect the carpet from spills and accidents. Stains from paint, varnish, glue or adhesive are particularly difficult to remove.

It is very important not to use hypochlorite or hydrogen peroxide bleaches. In both diluted and undiluted form, these can cause irreparable damage to the carpet coloration. Extreme care should be taken with open fires. Burn marks, especially on synthetic fibers, are extremely difficult to repair.

Daily pile lifting & vacuuming

At least 85% of all soil is typically dry, and the most effective way to deal with destructive dirt particles is through daily pile lifting and vacuuming.

Pile lifting is an essential activity that should be performed at least once a week in high traffic areas. A good pile lifter, such as the HOST ExtractorVac® or SEBO Professional G, will lift up the carpet pile, break loose and remove embedded soil that commercial vacuums cannot reach because of matting and crushing caused by heavy traffic.

Regular use of pile lifting will make routine vacuuming more efficient, since the counter revolving brushes combined with powerful airflow and filtration will remove the deep down dry dirt and grit.

The best commercial vacuums are equipped with rotating brushes, and vacuuming alternately in both length and width directions will help to dislodge soil from carpet fibers during daily vacuuming.

Cleaning

We recommend using the hot water extraction cleaning method for the deep cleaning of your carpet. As an alternative, for instance when there is not enough time available to let the carpet dry without traffic, we recommend either the dry extraction method or the crystallization method.

Hot water extraction

Hot water extraction is when hot water and non-sticky detergent are sprayed into the carpet pile under high pressure.

The detergent is agitated throughout the pile, dissolving oil bonds and preventing dirt particles from reattaching to the carpet fibers.

The water, detergent, and loosened dirt particles are removed through powerful suction. Extractors with a brush between the water jet and vacuum more effectively clean the carpet and are recommended.

Care must be taken not to overwet the carpet, and only extraction systems that dry within 3-4 hours of cleaning are recommended.

Fans and commercial dehumidifiers should be used to speed the drying process. Please note that the carpet should be completely dry before allowing any traffic on the area.



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Dry extraction or absorbent powder method

By using a dry cleaning method, there is no need to take the carpet out of service for a long period of time, while your carpet is clean, dry and looks its best every day.

These systems are comprised of a brush vacuum cleaner and a cleaning product that acts like millions of tiny, absorbent sponges. These sponges contain water, detergents and green cleaning chemistry which deep clean by dissolving and absorbing the greasy, oily dirt.

The brush vacuum cleaner lifts the pile, removes dry dirt, chemically deep cleans the carpet and removes spots and spills immediately.

Spot and spill removal

Left untreated, and allowed to dry, spills can quickly become unsightly, difficult to remove, and may cause permanent discoloration in the carpet. Spills therefore should be reported immediately, and treated as quickly as possible.

Quick action may remove the spilled substance before it penetrates into the carpet, and when tackled immediately, 95% of a liquid spill may be removed without the use of detergent.

Always try first to determine what has caused the spot, since it will help in deciding what type of spot remover to use. The majority of spills are easily removed with water and a microfibre towel.

When removing spots, the following points should be taken into consideration:

- The sooner a spot is removed, the better the result will be.
- Always work from the edge of the spot inwards.

The following steps should be followed:

1. Remove as much of the spilled material as possible with a spoon, and carefully blot up liquids with a white or undyed cloth or microfiber towel, paper tissue or kitchen roll.
2. Consult the Stain Removal Guide at the end of this guide to see which spot removal agent to use. Try this first on a spare piece of carpet or in an inconspicuous area of the installed carpet.
3. Apply the spot remover with a cloth. Do not pour it directly onto the spot.
4. Give the spot remover time to work in on the spot.
5. Blot the spot carefully until dry with an undyed cloth or microfiber towel, paper tissue or kitchen roll. Never rub or brush.
6. Then you may apply some of the different carpet cleaning powders that are available or you may use some paper towels. Pack it on the spot. Allow the area to dry. This will remove any residues of the spot material and the spot remover that you used. When the area is dry, vacuum.
7. Repeat if necessary



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Advice and recommendations

Please note that the carpet should never be over-wet.

Use small amounts of the cleaning agents and blot frequently.

Always blot, do not rub or brush.

Work from the outer edge of the spot towards the center, to prevent rings.

Be patient, some spots respond slowly. Spots and stains cannot all be removed from every textile floor covering due to the difference in fibers, dyes, construction, finishes, composition of the stain, length of time the stain has remained on the carpet, etc.

Specific stains

Specific items such as chewing gum, wax or tar cannot be successfully removed without the use of special chemicals and techniques. Always be sure to use a pH-neutral product, since products with a high pH-value will create new stains if not removed thoroughly and immediately after use.

Chewing gum is best removed by freezing it and gently breaking it away from the fibres, using a dull knife or spoon. Do not try solvents that will dissolve the gum, since a very sticky problem may result.

For more difficult stains, commercial machines are highly recommended.

They can be used during the regular pile lifting/vacuuming procedures to remove difficult spots and spills