

Carpet Care



Studies have shown that over 50% of homes contain dust mites and allergen levels that pose a significant risk for the development of allergies and asthma. Regular cleaning will reduce these risks dramatically, making your home safer and healthier for you and your family.

General carpet care advice

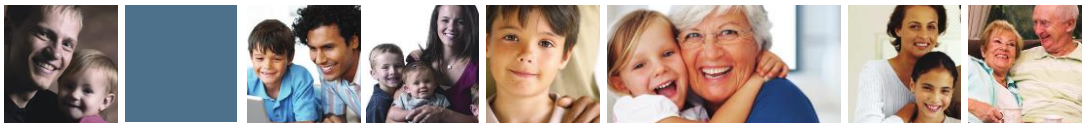
- Carpets should be vacuumed weekly and more often in high traffic areas.
- Every few weeks, furniture should be moved to vacuum the hidden areas.
- Periodically check that the brushes on your vacuum cleaner head are clean.
- If you feel the suction on your vacuum is poor, check the dust bag—change or empty it once it gets to half full to ensure best performance.
- Cut down on vacuuming and wear and tear on your carpet by putting down throw rugs or mats in high traffic areas, but be sure to remove and clean them regularly.
- Use entry mats to reduce tracked in soil—make sure they are cleaned regularly.
- Depending on usage, carpet should be professionally steam cleaned every 12 months.

Preventative carpet care advice

- If possible, do not allow food or drink onto carpeted areas.
- Remove or wipe shoes clean before entering.
- Do not put the clothes iron or a hair straightener on carpet.
- Supervise children closely when using paint, play dough, crayons, felt pens etc.
- Keep lipsticks, nail polish and paint out of reach of children.
- Do not use powder carpet deodorisers—they can leave stains on the surface when the carpets are steam cleaned.
- If a carpet thread is loose, snip it level with the pile—if you try to pull the thread, you risk unravelling part of the carpet.
- Do not use chairs or appliances with rollers or casters on carpet without a mat designed for carpet.
- When moving heavy furniture, do not drag or push it on the carpet—prevent damage by placing heavy cardboard underneath.

Tips for easy stain removal

1. Attend to spills promptly—the longer you leave it the more likely it will stain.
2. If the spill is solid, scrape it up—if it is dry, vacuum it up.
3. Dilute the spill with cold water and soak up the excess—do not saturate or rub the area as it can spread the stain.
4. Repeat step three for as long as you are achieving a positive result.
5. Carpet stain removers can be purchased from the supermarket—apply as soon as possible and follow the instructions carefully. Do not use any products that contain bleach, as it will discolour the carpet.



Tips for some common spills and stains

Acid stains: Acid spills, such as drain cleaner or vinegar, demand quick action. Dilute them immediately with baking soda and water or with club soda. Then apply a solution of ammonia (1 part) and water (10 parts). Rinse with cold water, let dry, and then vacuum gently.

Alcoholic beverages: Quickly dilute the spot with cold water. Absorb the excess liquid. Then mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups warm water. Apply the solution to the spot, and let the carpet dry. Vacuum gently after.

Blood: Absorb as much of the blood as you can. Then mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot, and let dry. Apply dry-cleaning fluid. Vacuum gently after the carpet is dry.

Butter: Scrape up as much of the butter as you can. Apply dry-cleaning fluid, and let the carpet dry. If the spot remains, repeat the procedure. Vacuum gently.

Candle wax: Press an ice cube against the wax stain. The wax will harden and can then be pulled off.

Tomato sauce: Sponge on a mixture of 1-cup vinegar and 2 cups water. Frequently wring out the sponge and continue until the stain is gone.

Chewing gum: Chewing gum can be a sticky mess, so harden it by pressing an ice cube against the blob of gum. Once hardened, the gum can be pulled off.

Chocolate: Immediately scrape the chocolate from the carpet. Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot. Rinse well and vacuum when dry.

Coffee: Blot the spilled coffee immediately with paper towel. Then mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot, and allow to dry. Apply dry-cleaning fluid. Vacuum gently after the carpet is dry.

Fruit: Fruit stains can be very hard to remove if they are allowed to set, but if you act quickly, this method usually prevents a permanent stain. Scrape up the spilled fruit and absorb the fruit juice. Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot and let the carpet dry. If the spot remains, repeat the procedure. Vacuum gently after the carpet has dried.

Gravy: Wipe up as much of the spilled gravy as possible. Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot. Let the carpet dry. Apply dry-cleaning fluid and allow it to dry. Vacuum gently after the carpet has dried.

Mud: Allow the mud to dry completely and then brush or scrape off as much as possible. Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot and let the carpet dry. If the stain remains, apply dry-cleaning fluid and blot dry. Vacuum gently after the carpet has dried.

Salad dressing: Absorb as much salad dressing as you can. Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot and let the carpet dry. If the spot remains, repeat the procedure. Vacuum gently after the carpet has dried.

Soft drink: The carbonation in soft drinks will help you clean spilled drinks quickly, but act fast because some of the dyes in the drinks can permanently stain your carpet. Blot up the spilled drink with paper towel. Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot and let the carpet dry. If the spot remains, repeat the procedure. Vacuum gently after the carpet has dried.

Urine: Mix 1-teaspoon mild detergent, 1-teaspoon white vinegar, and 4 cups of warm water. Apply the solution to the spot and let the carpet dry. If the spot remains, repeat the procedure. Vacuum gently after the carpet has dried.

Vomit: Treat vomit quickly. Blot up as much as possible, then dilute immediately with baking soda and water or with club soda. Apply a solution of ammonia (a part) and water (10 parts). Rinse with cold water, let dry, and then vacuum gently.