

Residential Carpet Care Tips

1. Keep walkways and entries clean.

Sweep, blow, vacuum or rinse soil away from the entry area often.

2. Use walk-off mats at all entrances.

This will prevent dirt from being tracked inside and soiling carpets and rugs.

3. Vacuuming

Routine vacuuming with properly maintained, quality equipment is the single most important step a homeowner can take to prolong the life and appearance of their carpet. A top-fill upright vacuum with brush agitation, or a canister vacuum with a "power head" incorporating brush agitation should be selected and used with routine frequency. Equally important, soil that is loosened and vacuumed from carpet must be collected in the vacuum's recovery system and not allowed to re-enter the air

within the structure. This otherwise contributes to indoor air pollution. For this reason, a high efficiency filtering system or bag should be used in any vacuum equipment employed. It is helpful to have a hose attachment for getting in those tight corners, edges, and furniture.

Equally important, check your vacuum often. If it has a beater bar, make sure it turns and the brush and belt are in good condition. Change the paper bag often, even if they aren't full. The air from the floor has to pass out of the bag to get the soil into the bag, and if the pores are clogged it won't work. The most expensive vacuum is not good if it isn't being used or if it isn't working properly.

Vacuuming is essential to maintaining the beauty of the furniture and prolonging its life. Removing dust and dirt, before it is ground into the fiber, can extend the life of your upholstery by up to 40%. The weekly maintenance will also enable you to notice new spots and stains and treat them accordingly.

Finally, don't allow your carpet and upholstery to become excessively soiled. Soil itself is damaging and, when too long in contact with the fiber, may become "set" and impossible to remove.

4. Treat spills immediately.

Begin by absorbing as much of the excess spill as possible. Using a mild cleaning solution (call us to find out what might best work on the spot), sprinkle the spotted area and then agitate. After treating spills with a mild solution, gently blot with a clean, white cloth. Do not rub, rubbing may cause damage to the carpet fibers. Continue blotting until the spill is removed or until no more color is transferred to the cloth. Mist the carpet with plain water to remove the cleaning agents, do not saturate (this may cause browning). Rinsing will prevent discoloration or rapid soiling. Finally, lay

a white towel on the spotted area with a light weight (i.e. mixing bowl or pot) object on top. This will be to help absorb the remaining moisture out of the carpet

5. Have carpet professionally cleaned annually.

Light colored carpet may require even more frequent professional cleanings. The IICRC recommends hiring an IICRC-Certified Firm to clean your carpet. Deciding on your cleaning schedule can be decided with you and your technician. The EPA has set guidelines for what is best for your families health. When you call Coast Carpet Cleaning just ask for the guidelines on how often your carpets should be cleaned and we will be more than happy to let you know.

6. Soil Retardant

Soil retardant is designed to repel dry soils and keep them from penetrating carpet or upholstery fibers. There are several manufacturers of these products. Proper Carpet/upholstery preparation, dilution of chemical, and application are essential to obtaining the highest level of performance. Nothing will make a carpet bulletproof, but soil retardants offer extra protection. They are a preventative and make maintenance more effective. Also, if the carpet originally had a soil retardant applied by the manufacturer it still will wear off. Having your carpet cleaner re-apply it is recommended and is based on the amount of traffic your carpets have.