

Contract Carpet

Maintenance & Cleaning Guidelines



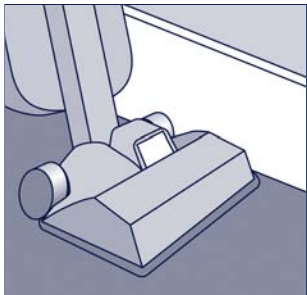
Cavalier Carpets

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Having made the decision to choose carpet as a floor covering for your premises it makes sense to protect the investment which this represents.

Over 80% of soiling deposited on interior flooring is tracked in from outside the building. Barrier mats or barrier carpets are essential first line defenses against foot borne soiling. Barrier mats trap the majority of soiling before it can be walked on to the main carpet and the trapped contaminants should be regularly removed from the barrier area in which they are confined. Not all soiling will be removed by barrier mats and some street soil will be deposited on the main carpet area.

Regular cleaning and a programme of routine maintenance are essential to retain the original visual effect and allow the carpet to perform satisfactorily.



Vacuum Cleaning

Upright cleaners with strong suction and driven brushes are the most effective models for cut pile carpets, suction only cleaners should be used on loop piles. Your cleaner needs to be maintained in good working condition and should be inspected regularly.

Slow passes of the cleaner head in directions at right angles to each other over a given area of carpet will allow the suction to remove most surface soiling and soil, which has penetrated to the base of the pile. Most vacuum cleaners have different height settings to allow adjustment to different pile heights and constructions. Experience will show which height setting is most suitable, providing the slight resistance to cleaning passes which is desirable. The use of robot vacuum cleaners is not recommended. Robot cleaners are not powerful enough and turn too quickly when running into the legs of furniture, leading to possible damage to the carpet.

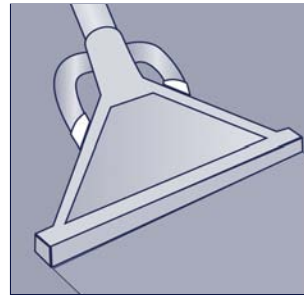
Heavy Soiling Areas

Main traffic lanes leading from entrances, lobbies, and reception areas are places where the heaviest soiling takes place, as are those where people queue or stand waiting for lifts etc. These areas require daily vacuum cleaning with several passes in different directions to expose the pile to maximum suction action.

Light Soiling Areas

Those areas which receive infrequent traffic or which can only be reached by walking some distance over other carpeted floors are likely to receive very little soil contamination and may be cleaned less regularly or following use. E.g. meeting rooms, board rooms.

Barrier mats and regular vacuum cleaning will keep soiling to a minimum but eventually some effects of soiling will show themselves. The carpet's fresh appearance may begin to fade and the surface become dull. Stains from spillage may become increasingly evident and at this stage action beyond regular vacuum cleaning is called for.

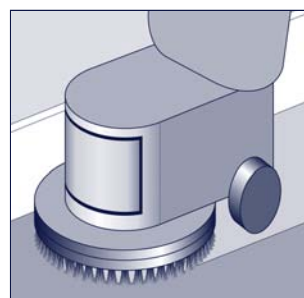


Wet Cleaning

There are several methods of wet cleaning to choose from. The most effective method is warm water extraction which flushes out ingrained soiling by injecting and extracting soil retardant detergent.

There are cleaning contractors who specialise in this type of

operation or a suitable machine can be purchased or hired for the purpose. Manufacturers' instructions for use should be carefully followed and staff must be trained to operate the machine correctly. The carpet becomes wet during the cleaning cycle and should not be walked on until it is absolutely dry (24 hours is usual). This time may be reduced significantly by adequate ventilation, ambient temperature and use of air movers (Turbo Dryers). This disruption to usual business may not be acceptable or possible and an alternative cleaning process may be required.



Dry Cleaning

In this process a detergent powder is brushed into the carpet, left for half an hour or so then removed by vacuum extraction. The powder is moist but the carpet will only become slightly damp with a very short drying time. As with wet cleaning, professional

specialists can be called in or machinery bought or hired, again staff should be trained in correct operation following manufacturers' instructions. Generally this type of process is not as in-depth hence may need to be undertaken more frequently.

Staining

Staining caused by spillage or by the deposit of adhesive substances to which soiling will stick, usually becomes immediately obvious. It is important to treat spillage stains early, preferably before they dry out, to reduce pile penetration and remove as much of the spillage as possible. Staff should be vigilant and report spillage incidents immediately so that effective, remedial action can be initiated.



Wet Staining

Tea, coffee, wine, beer, soft drinks etc. are all compounds which include a high proportion of water and should be blotted with clean dry cloths or absorbent paper towels. Any solid particles should be wiped or scraped up. When most of the liquid spillage has been

removed the residual staining should be diluted with water applied with a clean cloth or sponge. Care must be taken not to over wet the carpet or to scrub the surface. A gentle action working from the outside edge of the stain to the centre will prevent spread and concentrate the stain for removal.



Oil or Grease Stains

Butter, face and hand creams, wax, cooking oils, and fats are examples of such spillages. Apply a citrus gel impregnated cloth to the pile which loosens the grease. Larger deposits of chewing gum, blue tac etc., can also be removed by the application of citrus gels, which

must always be rinsed out with fresh warm water. Care must be taken to ensure adequate ventilation, and excessive application can damage certain carpet constructions. Manufacturers' instructions must always be followed by staff carrying out the cleaning process.

Treatment of Stains & Spillages

There are three main categories of stain: Water Based, Grease Based and a combination of both Water & Grease.

Water Based Stains

- Tea
- Wine
- Fruit Juices
- Beer
- Coffee
- Soft Drinks

Method - Blot the stain, remove any solids, apply warm water on a clean cloth or sponge, do not over wet. Work from outside of stain towards the centre, repeat if necessary. Treat remaining residues with very dilute mild detergent* such as a liquid fabric detergent and rinse. Thoroughly blot, allow to dry and then vacuum.

Grease Based Stains

- Butter
- Lipstick
- Fat
- Oil
- Wax
- Face Creams

Method - Firstly remove any solids, blot the affected area. Apply citrus gels, rinse thoroughly, allow to dry, then vacuum.

Stubborn water based stains to NYLON CARPETS can be further reduced by the application of a mild Hydrogen Peroxide* solution to the stained area **ONLY**, which should be promptly and thoroughly rinse extracted after application.

Combination Stains

- Ice Cream
- Chocolate Drinks
- Milk
- Gravy

Method - Remove any solids, blot the stain. Apply warm water on a clean cloth or sponge, do not over wet. Work from outside of stain towards the centre, repeat if necessary. If stains remain, apply citrus gels*, rinse thoroughly, allow to dry, then vacuum.

*Caution

Follow manufacturers instructions, ensure adequate ventilation, wear protective gloves & prohibit smoking. Some chemicals may cause damage if used excessively.

Please be aware that certain fibres, to include but not exclusively wool and printed nylon, can be subject to colour loss when in direct contact with some cleaning products.

These include descalers and hard surface cleaners which include bleach. Even on nylon fibres, if the spillage is hot and left to dwell, this can make stain removal more difficult.

Maintenance Summary

1 Protect your carpet

Place barrier mats to trap soiling walked in from outside. Identify sources of soiling inside your premises; Canteens, Restaurants, Vending Machines, Workshops etc. Isolate them by fitting barrier matting or barrier carpet.

2 Remove soiling regularly

Identify your cleaning needs and formulate a regular and thorough maintenance schedule with your cleaning staff or cleaning contractor.

3 Tackle spills early

Encourage staff to report spillages & stains immediately, and respond to the problem quickly. Be prepared, ensure that suitable stain removal materials are readily available, that staff know where they are and how to use them.

4 Professional help

Locate a reputable professional cleaning company, ask them for references. Provide them with details of carpet specification and construction. Obtain guarantees & agree price quotations in advance.

5 Health and safety

Train staff, be aware of chemical content of sprays, detergents and cleaning fluids etc. Follow manufacturers' instructions. Inspect equipment regularly, assess any hazards and take adequate measures to avoid them.

6 And finally...

This page provides general guidelines and outlines basic carpet care, it is offered as a service to customers. Cavalier Carpets Ltd. will not be held responsible for damage or injury arising out of any action taken based on the advice in this information.

Further advice and assistance can be obtained from;

PROFESSIONAL FLOORING & FURNITURE SOLUTIONS

on 0844 8717982

or by contacting our customer service department.