

## Looking after your carpets

Using a Vacuum cleaner is the most important thing people can do to maintain their carpets. This is where this article will start. But it does not stop here. There will also be some different methods of cleaning, removing hard to move stains, and dealing with various issues as we go.

Let's start here

Carpets should be vacuumed at least once a week and more often in any areas of heavy traffic such as a hallway, Stairs or patio doors. Regular vacuuming can help with the wear ability of carpet as it prevents a build-up of small gritty particles which can cause carpet fibres to wear from inside the pile and become weak and frayed. Special attention should be paid to those hard to get at areas, like the small corner between the carpet and the skirting board and various other difficult places, these should be vacuumed every couple of weeks using the thin nozzle attachment.

Always make sure you vacuum carpet properly, giving yourself plenty of time when you vacuum. On plush carpeting where there is bound to be plenty of embedded grit and dust you should take extra time. A once over with a vacuum is not enough. Each area of carpeting should be passed over at least three or four times, and not too fast, in fact the slower the better.

Stain Guard products can be applied to new carpets or after cleaning. Follow manufacturers' advice. Apply stain guards only with professional equipment using the recommended instructions.

### Cleaning Spots and Spills

The first rule is to remove the spots and spills on your carpet, as quickly as possible. If you catch it fresh you have a better than average chance of removing it altogether. Take a look at some of the following tips:

As much of the stain should be removed as possible, with absorbent cloths such as tissue paper or towelling, things like chocolate should be gently scraped up, use something blunt like the side of a tea spoon (Note not to hard) before using any cleaning agents.

All cleaning agents should be first tested on a small area out of the way, like behind the TV, Just to make sure they don't have an adverse effect on the carpet

It would be a good idea to keep some cleaning agents in the house:

- 1. Washing-up liquid**
- 2. Solvent: white spirit/turpentine**
- 3. Dry cleaning fluid**
- 4. Washing powder**

## **5. Bicarbonate of soda**

## **6. White vinegar**

When using any cleaning product work from the outside of the stain and inwards, this will help to prevent the stain from spreading.

Use a fresh white towel to dry the carpet and return the pile to its normal position.

Most stains can be treated simply by using one teaspoon of mild detergent/washing-up liquid and mixing with one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area. Dab with a clean white towel and let dry. Finally vacuum gently (It is a good idea to use dry-cleaning fluid after any of these actions).

### **Treating Specific Carpet Stains**

**Acid:** Acid spills such as vinegar demand quick action. Dilute them immediately with Bicarbonate of soda and water then rinse with cold water. Dab the area with a white towel then allow the area to dry before gently vacuuming.

**Alcoholic drinks:** Dilute the area with cold water. Dab with a white towel. Next mix one teaspoon of mild detergent, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and dab with white towel allowing area to dry before gently vacuuming.

**Butter:** Scrape up as much of the butter up as you can. Spray with dry-cleaning fluid and allow the carpet to dry. If the stain remains then, repeat the process two or three times then vacuum gently.

**Blood:** soak up as much as you can. Next mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area. Dab with a white towel and allow to dry. If the stain remains, repeat two or three times then vacuum gently.

**Candle wax:** Press an ice cube against the wax. This will harden the wax and it can then be peeled off.

**Chocolate:** Immediately scrape the chocolate from the carpet. Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and rinse well. Next dab with a white towel allow the area to dry then gently vacuum.

**Chewing gum:** Gum can be a sticky mess, so harden it by pressing an ice cube against the gum. Once hardened, the gum can be peeled off.

**Coffee and Tea:** Dab up spilled coffee/tea. Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area, dab with a white towel, and let dry. Finally vacuum the area gently.

**Crayon:** Gently scrape away as much as you can, then using an absorbent cloth or blotting paper lay it over the area placing an iron over the top (no steam and not too hot). Taking your time, move over the area a little bit at a time, moving from one part of the cloth to another not using the same part twice. This process will gradually remove the mark. Apply dry-cleaning spray, let the carpet dry and vacuum gently.

**Fruit:** Scrape up spilt fruit. Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area then dab with a white towel and allow the carpet to dry. If the stain remains, repeat. Finally vacuum the area gently.

**Gravy:** Wipe up as much as you can. Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/ washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and dab with a white towel. Apply dry-cleaning spray allow to dry then vacuum gently.

**Ketchup:** Sponge up as much as possible. Mix one cup of white vinegar into two cups of water. Rub gently into the area then rinse until mark has gone. Dab the area with a white towel, allow to dry and vacuum gently.

**Salad dressing:** Wipe up as much as you can. Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/ washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and dab with a white towel. Allow the area to dry. If the stain remains, repeat the process then vacuum gently.

**Soft drinks:** Wipe up as much as you can. Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent/ washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and dab with a white towel. Allow the area to dry and if the stain remains, repeat the process, then vacuum gently.

**Soil/mud:** Allow the soil/mud to dry completely and then brush off as much as possible. Then vacuum. This will normally do the trick, but if not Mix one teaspoon of mild detergent /washing up liquid, one teaspoon of white vinegar and one litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and dab with a white towel. Allow the area to dry. If the stain remains, repeat the process and then vacuum gently.

**Urine:** Wipe up as much as you can. Mix 1 teaspoon of mild detergent/ washing up liquid, 1 teaspoon of white vinegar and 1 litre of warm water. Apply the solution to the area and dab with a white towel. Allow the area to dry. If the stain remains, repeat the process then vacuum gently.

**Vomit:** Acid spills demand quick action. Dilute them immediately with Bicarbonate of soda and water, and then rinse with cold water. Next dab the area with a white towel, allowing time to dry then vacuuming gently.

**Wine:** When red wine is spilt dab immediately with a white towel. Next dilute the spill with white wine and dab with a white towel again. Clean the area with cold water and cover with table salt. Wait ten minutes then vacuum up the salt. Dab the area with a white towel again and allow drying before vacuuming gently.

When nothing seems to work? Deep-cleaning jumps to mind.

My tip here is to get the professionals to do it; there are so many things which could and most probably will go wrong, so it's just not worth doing it your self

If you follow the tips in this article, you can expect your carpets to give a long and good service.

PS. If you have any comments please contact us, your input will be greatly appreciated.

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