

CARPETCARE | A GUIDE TO PRODUCT
MAINTENANCE

ROLS
WOOL CARPETS

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A. CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

GUIDE FOR CARPETS

I. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Prevention is the best cure: Install Walk-off Mats to All External Doorways

It is paramount to start with preventive maintenance. Walk-off mats installed at all external doorways (and from service areas where, dirt, grease and moisture are present) will significantly reduce tracked soil particles. This simple practical solution, will help to reduce up to 80% of all soiling, which will otherwise come into contact with the pile of your carpet.

Walk-off mats must be of a sufficient size to allow for two or more footsteps. Clean or change these on a regular basis to prevent the buildup of soil, which will reduce the effectiveness of the mats to reduce soil.

Regular maintenance and replacement of filters in heating and air conditioning systems will contribute to a reduction of airborne soil particles.

2. REGULAR MAINTENANCE:

2.1. VACUUMING

Frequent vacuuming is an effective and essential method for reducing the presence and build-up of loose soil particles in the carpet pile. The removal of such particles is a key process as embedded soil is abrasive and, over time, will have a negative impact on the visual appearance of the carpet and be a significant factor in premature wear. In light use areas of the home, weekly vacuuming should be sufficient to reduce soil build, but in heavier traffic domestic use and commercial applications, a shorter frequency, including daily vacuuming may be required.

Specific vacuum types are more effective with different carpet constructions and it is important that the machine chosen is suitable for use with the carpet installed. The vacuum must be well maintained, with clean working parts, especially those engaged in contact with the carpet pile. Most vacuum manufacturers recommend their machines are most efficient when the soil collection cylinder or bag is operated no more than half full and that filters are changed 3-4 times/year, or more in heavy use environments.

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR VACUUMING:

- Vacuuming should begin as soon as the carpet is laid. It is very important that any residual dust from building and installation work is removed from the carpet pile before it is put into use.
- For loop pile carpets, use a suction only vacuum to prevent distortion or fuzzing of the carpet surface.
- Vacuum cleaning should be carried out both before and after other cleaning operations such as hot water extraction and low moisture soil extraction.
- In large open areas of an installation, sweeping actions can be used up and down, overlapping each one slightly to ensure complete coverage.
- The starting point should be varied each day to make sure that the carpet is not always brushed in the same direction.
- The vacuum cylinder or bag should be kept less than half full for best results and any filters should be changed on a regular basis.
- A new carpet will contain a small proportion of loose short fibres, which should be removed by regular vacuuming. The removal of this short fibre from the carpet in the first few weeks after installation, in a process sometimes called "shedding". The fibre removed by vacuuming represents a very small proportion of the overall pile weight and will in no way affect the carpet's long-term performance.

- With loose laid rugs, never shake by holding the perimeter edges as this can cause damage to fringes or loosen taped and other types of edge finishes. If beating the rug to remove embedded dirt is necessary, we recommend the rug is turned over onto a protective sheet, with the pile side down against the sub-floor and then beat the rug from the back to dislodge embedded dust and particles. Once turned over with the pile on the surface, vacuum the pile. Repeat as necessary.

TYPE OF VACUUM EQUIPMENT & RECOMMENDED USE:

I. TWIN MOTOR UPRIGHT (RECOMMENDED FOR CUT PILE STRUCTURES)

These are electrically driven twin motor machines with cylindrical rotating brushes, which restore the surface appearance of the pile as well as removing surface debris. These machines are not recommended for loop pile carpet as their aggressive mechanical action can damage the pile structure of these carpets.

2. SUCTION ONLY VACUUM MACHINE (RECOMMENDED FOR LOOP PILE STRUCTURES)

Cylindrical or tub shaped machines with a hose attached are not as efficient as upright machines for removing grit, lifting the pile and maintaining the appearance of a cut pile carpet, however, they are suitable for use with loop pile structures as their cleaning action is less aggressive than that of an upright machine.

Tips for proper maintenance of vacuum equipment:

- 1 Machines need to be cleaned free from threads, which become wound round the rollers preventing them working effectively.
- 2 Belts and brushes should be inspected and replaced when damaged or broken.
- 3 Adjust the settings of your vacuum equipment: The brushes should just rest into the pile, too deep and the motor will be laboured, too shallow and the cleaning efficiency is lost.
- 4 Warning lights should not be ignored, and bags or cylinders must be emptied regularly to optimize the suction and airflow required for effective soil removal, a guide being when around half full.
- 5 Filters need changing 3-4 times/year, or more in heavy use environments.

2.2. CLEANING

If you have taken the time to care for your carpet with regular vacuuming and prompt attention to localized stains caused by tracked dirt or liquid spillage, you may not need to use an intensive deep cleaning process even if your carpet is a light colour. When the carpet does start to look soiled and deep cleaning is required to revitalize the appearance of the pile, we recommend that you employ a reputable professional carpet cleaner to undertake the work.

Whilst there are several water based household carpet cleaning systems available either to purchase or hire, carpet cleaning and restoration is a skilled job and should only be undertaken by a trained and experienced professional carpet cleaner.

Always ensure the carpet is cleaned using a high-quality cleaning agent, preferably one that is Woolsafe® recommended. Before re-using the carpet after any deep cleaning procedure, always ensure the carpet is completely dry and vacuum to avoid rapid re-soiling of the pile surface.

2.3. SPILLAGES AND STAIN REMOVAL

Spillages not tackled immediately by the correct processes may develop into an unsightly long-term stain. In areas where food and drink are served and consumed, spillages of all types are to be expected. Some foods and drinks contain natural colorants, which penetrate the fibres of the carpet, where they become locked in, acting as a type of dyestuff. Foods and drink spillages often contain traces of sugar or fats/oils and are therefore sticky; if untreated, the surface residue of the stain may come into contact with the soles of shoes or wheeled appliances and become tracked to other parts of the installation, thereby spreading the problem and making soil and stain removal more expensive and time consuming.



STEPS FOR STAIN REMOVAL:

① Immediate attention to any spillage is essential to prevent the penetration of the stain into the carpet fibres, the longer the stain remains untreated, the more complicated it will be to remove and this can cause permanent stain setting:

A. For solids, the first step is to scoop up or scrape off loose dirt using a blunt instrument such as a spoon or spatula. If the spill is of a dry powdery nature, use a vacuum cleaner on the correct setting to remove from the surface, gently brushing if necessary to assist in the process. It should be noted that some dry spillages are also greasy and, if they are not removed as detailed in the steps below, they may result in a stain, which attracts soil more quickly than surrounding areas of carpet. Any remaining residue should be then treated as suggested by our guide for specific stains.

B. For wet spillages, these should be wet vacuumed as soon as they occur to avoid staining, or soak up liquids with white absorbent cloth/towel.

② Determine the right method of stain removal depending of the nature of the stain.

③ Prior to overall usage of a cleaning product, undertake a small test on an inconspicuous area of the carpet to be cleaned and allow the test area to dry. If you notice discoloration of the pile fibres, immediately cease using the product. Only used certified cleaning materials, which are recommended for the pile fibre of the installed carpet.

④ Use cleaning treatments for each specific stain as instructed in our guide:

- Apply the cleaning products to a cloth, not directly to the carpet, unless the product instructions specify so.

- Always work on stains from the outer edge towards the centre and gently blot, never rub, as this can cause pile distortion and spread the stain.

- Never rub the pile surface to remove a stain or spillage as this will irreversibly distort the pile.

⑤ Ensure the carpet is blotted with a clean white cloth or white paper towel until the pile is dry. Between any additional steps in the treatment process always remove excess moisture.

⑥ Thoroughly rinse out water-based spot treatments from the pile with clean water after cleaning to remove solvent residues.

⑦ Place several layers of white paper towel over the spillage area and put a flat weight on them until dry. A hair dryer may be used to speed up the drying process but do NOT overheat the area. Rapid re-soiling will occur if you do not allow the carpet to dry thoroughly before walking on it.

⑧ If the stain is not properly removed after the treatment, do not overuse the cleaning products and contact a professional carpet cleaner immediately.

USEFUL INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC STAINS:

OIL/GREASE BASED STAINS

If greasy or oily spillages/stains are left within the carpet pile, they will attract soil and can re-appear as a dirt spot or stain, even after overall cleaning has been carried out. Small marks can be removed using a solvent-based product.

WATER BASED STAINS: TEA, COFFEE, COLA, FRUIT JUICE, BLOOD OR URINE

Where the carpet is stained by blood, urine, faeces or vomit, spillages should be handled with extreme care. Protective gloves should always be used in these instances.

Soft drinks such as cola's and juices contain a high percentage of sugar and dry to leave a sticky residue in the pile, which will attract soil unless removed. It is very important that the correct procedures are followed. Time spent at this stage removing spillages or fresh stains will save considerable time later.

CHEWING GUM

Chewing gum can be removed by using a freezer type spray to chill the gum allowing it to be broken away from the pile, then rinsing the residue with a solvent spotter.

The alternative is to use a gel type solvent. Perforate the chewing gum residue and apply the gel sparingly. After 3 to 4 minutes, the gum dissolves and can then be blotted from the carpet using clean paper towels. The gel residue must be blotted out with clean water. In this process, take great care not to over apply the gel or rub the carpet.

2.4. HELPFUL HINTS FOR CARPET MAINTENANCE

- All areas of the installation should be inspected on a regular basis to identify potential problems and minimise long-term damage.
- Barrier matting fitted to external access doors and internal wipe off areas should be thoroughly cleaned using the methods and frequencies recommended by the manufacturer.
- Only use cleaning products that are compatible with the fibre of the carpet installed. The use of incompatible cleaning products may cause irreversible damage to your carpet.
- Frequency of cleaning recommendations for all carpet areas, as outlined in this maintenance guideline should be closely followed.
- Be careful when moving furniture with wheels by placing a protective barrier between the wheels and the carpet.
- Ensure there always is plenty of fresh air ventilation when applying cleaning products.
- Low residue shampoo solutions should be used to avoid any build-up of shampoo and possible rapid re-soiling.
- The carpet should never be subject to excess wetting or left in a wet condition for long periods of time.
- And remember... the longer the carpet lasts, the less it costs over its lifecycle.

2.5. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISCOSE/TENCEL CARPETS

Carpets manufactured from cellulosic pile fibres such as viscose or tencel are far more delicate than those made of a wool fibre and are not recommended for use in high traffic domestic locations or contract installations. The structure of cellulosic fibres makes them more prone to flattening (less resilient) and they are highly absorbent (can be stained by water spillage). When considering the installation of a carpet made from cellulosic fibres, it is important to consider:

- Shedding is an inherent characteristic in carpets made from cellulosic fibres. This is due to the short staple length of the fibre and is not considered as a manufacturing defect.
- Never use vacuum equipment with beater brushes as this is too aggressive for this yarn type and will cause damage pile structure of the carpet.
- For spillages and stain removal, take into consideration that viscose is a very absorbent fibre, so cleaning should only be undertaken using a damp clean cloth and minimal quantities of cleaning solutions.
- Never scrub the pile fibre during the cleaning process as this will distort the pile. Using a damp cloth, gently blot the area of the stain or spill, working outwards from the centre of the stain.
- It is recommended to use a cleaning solution that contains acetic acid or citric acid rinse. Only use cleaning solutions in the recommended concentrations.
- Once the stain has been cleaned, dry the wet areas quickly but blotting excess moisture with a dry, clean cloth. If necessary, use an air mover, dehumidifier or other type of drying equipment to speed up the process.
- Following stain removal treatment, it is highly likely that the fibre of the treated area of the stain will be significantly brighter than the surrounding fibres that have not been subjected to a cleaning procedure.

3. CONTRACT RELATED CLEANING:

3.1. WHEEL CHAIR, LUGGAGE or SERVICE TROLLEY RUBBER WHEEL MARKS

The carpet in highly concentrated traffic areas such as internal ramps and lift cars, which are designed to allow easy access for wheelchairs, luggage and service trollies may be subjected to high friction rubber transfer markings, especially on turning points.

Due to the amount of concentrated weight transferred through the wheels and the friction created by their turning action these marks can be a significant cause of soiling if left untreated for any period. The rubber transfer markings will become sticky and a small mark can compound into a much larger mark as soil from foot and wheeled traffic builds up on the original stain. These transfer marks can be removed quickly and safely from the fibres using a Woolsafe® approved gel type solvent. The treated pile area must be thoroughly rinsed out otherwise any remaining the gel residue will continue to attract soil.

Targeted treatment of rubber transfer marks should be programmed just prior to regular maintenance of the overall carpet to avoid leaving visible clean spots on the carpet.

3.2. INTERIM CLEANING METHOD

To minimise operational disruption within the area of an installation where maintaining the appearance of the carpet is a key requirement, but cannot be achieved by the regular vacuuming cycle, we recommend a programme of interim cleaning, which should be carried out to an on-demand cycle. The interim cleaning cycle may be varied to take into account the specific causes of the soiling. This is a complete cleaning system, which is more intensive than vacuuming and spot cleaning and if carried out regularly and correctly, will reduce the need for deep cleaning, improve the overall pile surface appearance and extend the usable lifespan of the carpet.

INTERIM CLEANING METHOD – LOW MOISTURE SOIL EXTRACTION SHAMPOO

In this method, a low moisture cleaning solution containing only 5 to 10% moisture is fed from a container onto a full width rotary bristle brush, which massages the foam into the carpet pile. At the same time, as well as cleaning the carpet pile, the brushing action helps to lift the pile and restore surface appearance. The built-in vacuum extracts residual soil and moisture.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Spillages, spots and stains should be removed before interim cleaning is carried out. The carpet must be thoroughly vacuumed, ideally starting with an empty bag or cylinder, to remove as much debris and soil as possible.

NOTE: BONNET BUFFING IS NOT SUITABLE FOR USE ON WOOL RICH CARPETS

3.3. DEEP (INTENSIVE) METHODS OF CLEANING - HOT WATER EXTRACTION

However carefully vacuuming, spot cleaning and interim cleaning methods are carried out, there will come a time when overall deep cleaning is required to restore the appearance of the carpet pile and get rid of settled soils that cause gradual dulling of colours. Hot water extraction is one of the best deep cleaning methods available as it effectively flushes soil, grit and other debris from the pile of the carpet. It is important that for wool carpets the deep cleaning must be performed with warm (not hot) water.

HOT WATER EXTRACTION

Hot water extraction machines used pressurised spray jets to transfer the water/cleaning solution deep into the carpet pile. The cleaning solution and soil particles are then extracted from the pile with a vacuum head, which follows behind the jets. Some machines incorporate a brushing action between the spray head and vacuum to agitate the pile.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Spillages, spots and stains should be removed before intensive cleaning is carried out.

The carpet must be thoroughly vacuumed, ideally starting with an empty bag or cylinder, to remove as much debris and soil as possible.

Hot water extraction machines can be used in two ways:

METHOD ONE

This method uses a surfactant solution in the tank, which is sprayed onto the surface of the carpet and immediately vacuumed up by the vacuum head. This is an acceptable method; however, there is little dwell time between spraying and extraction; therefore, it is possible not all soil is deep clean removed.

METHOD TWO (recommended)

The hot water extraction tank is filled with a diluted fibre conditioner without shampoo. A pre-spray solution is then applied to the carpet using a power spray with a fine spray nozzle. The chemical is left for a few minutes to impregnate the pile fibres and the carpet is then treated with the hot water extraction machine filled with the fibre conditioner rinse. This flushes the pre-spray from the carpet leaving the fibres in a very clean condition and less likely to attract further and rapid re-soiling.

It is extremely important, whichever system is employed, that the carpet is not allowed to become over wet otherwise shrinkage can occur, leaving gaps around the perimeter of the installation or the splitting of seam joins, both of which are caused by the shrinkage of the carpet.

After cleaning, the carpet should not be walked on until completely dry or rapid re-soiling will occur. As the drying time is a critical requirement, the carpet area undergoing water cleaning needs to be closed off from use until dry. Dependant on ambient conditions, we would expect the carpet to be completely dry in about 4 hours, although this can be reduced by employing fans and moisture extractors with the area where cleaning operations have taken place.

Note: It is recommended that only trained professionals should carry out the above procedures. Prior to commencing a cleaning procedure, the cleaning contractor should ensure the proposed cleaning solution and method of application is compatible with the carpet, by undertaking a control test before proceeding with the overall cleaning process. A risk assessment should be carried out prior to the commencement of any cleaning works, which outlines the processes to be undertaken, any specific health and safety considerations and the suitability of the proposed cleaning method in relation to the carpet and installation.

THE KEY POINTS IN THE USE OF HOT WATER EXTRACTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- a) Only use trained professional carpet cleaners to undertake the work required.
- b) We recommend the low residue pre-spray/fibre rinse method.
- c) Only products suitable for use on wool rich carpets should be used. Woolsafe® products have been through rigorous appraisal processes and are generally compatible with Moquetas Rols wool rich products.
- d) If the shampoo method is used, only use a low residue type product, which is not engineered to attract soil.
- e) Dilution and application rates as recommended by the manufacturer of the cleaning solution should not be exceeded.
- f) The carpet should be cordoned off from use so that it cannot be walked on whilst still wet. This not only reduces the risk of re-soiling but also helps to prevent potential slip & fall accidents when walking from a damp carpet onto to a hard surface.
- g) Good ventilation or a commercial air mover are essential in closed areas, especially when large areas are wet cleaned.
- h) It is very important that the carpet is not allowed to become over wet during hot water extraction or any other cleaning process as shrinkage may occur around the perimeter of the area and any seams/joins may open or split.

B. PRODUCT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Tolerances

All product specifications are subject to recognised manufacturing tolerances.

Technical Developments

The company reserves the right to modify individual or multiple components of the carpet specification, without notice, where performance is not affected, to give the customer the advantage of the latest technical developments.

Colour Matching, Selection and Stock Cuttings

Due to variations in dyeing, it is not possible to obtain an exact colour match and slight differences will exist between different production batches. For this reason, all samples are a guide to colour and texture and may not be an exact match to the available batch. Where a specific colour match is required, we recommend a stock cutting from the current material batch (if sufficient in quantity to complete the intended enquiry) is requested.

It should be taken into consideration when selecting colours that darker shades camouflage the effects of soiling more than lighter shades. This is especially relevant for areas of concentrated wear in both contract and residential installations.

Colour Appearance

Different light sources can alter the perception and appearance of a colour. It is recommended to view a sample at the final location under actual light conditions prior to making the carpet selection.

Colour Fastness to Light

Our wool carpets are manufactured using the most updated dyes in the market following the strictest environmental regulations. Nevertheless like all other dyed textiles, carpet will slowly lose colour to some degree if exposed to sustained periods of sunlight. Fading is not considered a manufacturing defect and it is normal that a slight lightening of the fibre colour will occur over time.

Light colours have a lower light fastness to light than darker colours and the use of blinds or other window treatments will help to protect carpet from fade especially in areas where sunlight falls onto the carpet for extended periods of time.

Colour Fastness to Shampoo

Slight fading of colours over time is normal as the dyes used to colour the carpet are not inherent to the fibres. It is important to use a PH neutral shampoo on wool carpets, preferably one that is Woolsafe® recommended. Some degree of colour fading due to cleaning is not considered a manufacturing defect.

Insect Resistance

All our wool carpets are treated with insecticides against moths during the manufacturing process. However, in some regions moths have developed a tolerance to treatments and therefore regular cleaning and maintenance is essential for proper control. Regular vacuuming under furniture and the corners or edges of carpets and rugs will discourage moths and reveal any infestations at an early stage.

Surface Effects

Certain variances within the overall surface texture are inherent characteristics in all quality natural fibre carpets. We cannot accept complaints caused by these effects which are not considered manufacturing defects.

Long Tufts

Occasionally you may find a random tuft that protrudes above the surface of your carpet. Do not pull it out. If the carpet is of a cut pile structure, using sharp scissors, carefully cut the long tuft level with the surrounding pile. If the carpet is of a loop pile structure, using a needle or similar pointed tool, push the base of the long tuft down into the backing materials. If in doubt, use a professional carpet cleaner to undertake the repair.

Shedding

All carpets with staple fibres such as wool or viscose will produce short fibres which break out from the main body of the spun yarn.

This will occur on carpets of a cut pile construction and is more pronounced during the first month or two following installation. These fibres represent only a fractional percentage of the overall fibres and their shedding is not detrimental to the long-term performance of the carpet. These loose fibres are easily removed by vacuuming.

Shading

Plain and lightly patterned carpets, especially cut pile constructions, will always show markings on the pile surface much more than heavily patterned styles. This occurs because the pile of the carpet becomes flattened, crushed or brushed in a different direction to the natural pile lay during use. Light is reflected from the variations in the pile surface at different angles, giving the effect of light and dark patches on the carpet. This is an inherent characteristic of these product styles and not a manufacturing defect.

Permanent Pile Reversal

It is possible that this effect can occur very soon after installation or take an undetermined period to manifest. The phenomenon, which is sometimes referred to as watermarking, creates a permanent and irreversible shade difference on the pile surface. The effects are most noticeable on plain or lightly patterned cut pile carpets and will occur at random. For this reason, these effects will not be considered as manufacturing defects.

Pile crush & Tracking

Through use and in time, the pile fibre of all carpets will flatten to a certain degree. This will be especially noticeable in areas of concentrated wear such as, but not limited to, principal walkways and stairs.

Pile Banding

Carpet is stored in a roll form. In storage, the weight of the roll creates a downward pressure which can cause a slight crushing of the surface of the pile, which when unrolled can show as a light band across the width of the carpet.

This characteristic is perfectly normal and will disappear in a few weeks after installation as the pile becomes conditioned to the local environment and is subjected to use and regular vacuuming.

Static electricity

When the atmosphere in a room is dry, static electricity can build up in the carpet. This may be counteracted by maintaining the environment at a higher level of humidity, either using a mechanical humidifier or with well-watered leafy indoor plants (remembering to position the pots into a non-permeable flat saucer). An antistatic spray can also be used, but these should be used with care and should not come into contact with other surfaces within the interior scheme.

Temporary Carpet Protection

We do not recommend the use of temporary protective films containing a tackifier in conjunction with our carpet. If the carpet needs to be protected to allow temporary works (our recommendation would be to uplift the carpet until work is completed), use an adhesive free protective sheeting system with surface tape joints to avoid an adhesive residue being left on the carpet as this may create the conditions for accelerated soiling in the pile.

C. DISCLAIMER

The information contained in our cleaning and maintenance guide is provided in good faith. No responsibility is accepted by Rols Wool Carpets for claims in relation to post installation maintenance procedures or treatments.

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