



creating beauty with every step

You love the warm feeling of carpet during the winter months. You like how the carpet in your bedroom matches your comforter and sheets. What you don't like is keeping the carpet clean and spot free. Stains and spills happen. The key is removing them before they set into the carpet. Taking care of your carpet doesn't have to be a difficult task. With a few tips, you can keep your carpet like new for years to come.

One way to extend your carpet's life is to avoid moving and dragging furniture across the flooring. Use coasters intended for use with carpet under heavy furniture before moving the items. The coasters will prevent the carpet's pile from being mashed down. If you don't have any carpet coasters, use heavy cardboard to keep from damaging the carpet. Vacuum the carpet immediately after moving the furniture to restore the carpet pile. Also, use a chair pad if you have any chairs or appliances with rollers on them.

how to do it

Limit Sunlight

Direct sunlight can fade your carpet. Protect the flooring by directing the blinds up instead of down so the sunlight is not coming in on the carpet directly. Don't open shades all the way to the top of the windows. If you have a room with no curtains, blinds or shades but it has carpet, consider installing an awning over any windows where direct sunlight flows in regularly.

Make a Carpet Cleaning Solution

To clean spills and spots quickly, make a cleaning solution of ¼ teaspoon of mild dish washing soap (Dawn, Joy or other non-chlorine bleach soap) and 32 ounces of water. Stay away from soaps that are creamy or cloudy---those will leave a residue. Note: If your carpet is stain- or soil-resistant, the resistant coating only improves your ability to remove spots and spills. No carpet is 100 percent stain- or soil-proof.

Remove Spills and Spots Quickly

When a spill/spot occurs, remove as much of the food, drink or other substance as quickly as possible. Pick up food with a paper towel, spoon or butter knife. Remove spills with several white paper towels. Place the towels over the spill, and blot repeatedly. Never rub or scrub a spill. Blot from the outer edge of the spill inward. Next apply some of your cleaning solution onto a paper towel and blot. (See the above section.) Then apply a wet paper towel to rinse out the detergent. Place several paper towels over the wet spot to draw out any remaining water.

For food spots, use some of the cleaning solution also. Next, apply a wet paper towel to rinse out the detergent. Finally, draw out any remaining water by placing several paper towels on top of the spot and pressing down.

Use a Commercial Carpet Cleaning Machine or Service Vacuuming alone is not enough. Your carpet should be cleaned with a commercial carpet cleaning machine at least once a year. A commercial carpet cleaner removes any dirt buried within the carpet that vacuuming alone can't remove. Rent a carpet cleaner from your local grocery or retail store. Using a professional carpet cleaning service is another option for having your carpet cleaned.



Carpet

Vacuum Regularly: Vacuuming your carpet regularly will keep the dust and dirt from being absorbed into your carpet. Medium to high traffic areas should be vacuumed twice weekly, and the entire house at least once a week.

Use Area Rugs: If you use area rugs over your carpet, be sure to remove and clean them regularly. Clean and restore the pile of the carpet underneath and carefully check that the rugs are not letting off any dye before putting them back on the carpet.

Spot and Stain Removal: Prompt attention to spots and spills is essential. Remove as much of food spills as possible by scraping gently with a spoon or dull knife. Absorb spills as quickly as possible by blotting repeatedly with white paper or white cloth towels. Always blot a spot working from the outer edge in toward the center. Do not rub or scrub. Always follow up with lukewarm water to remove detergent residue that may become sticky and cause rapid re-soiling. Remove any extra moisture with towel.

Wood/Laminate

Immediately wipe up spills. Place area rugs or runners in high traffic areas. Remember that flooring around rug may fade so move your rugs around often. Spot clean your floor as needed and completely clean several times a year with wood/laminate floor cleaners. Do not use water or soap-based detergents which may leave a dull film.

Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, or scouring materials which can scratch the floor. Do not wax or polish laminate floors. Keep your pet's claws trimmed as they may scratch the floor. Maintain proper climate and humidity controls. A temperature of 70 degrees and 35-50% humidity levels are ideal.



Vinyl

Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Wash floor periodically with manufacturer recommended vinyl cleaners. Do not use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products as they may leave a film on your floor. Also do not use abrasive scrubbing tools. When moving appliances or heavy furniture, lay a plywood panel on your floor and walk the item across it. This protects your floor from scuffing and tears.



If you have questions on caring for your floor, call anytime and let us help.

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