

CONTRACT CARPETS

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.

HEAVY SOILING AREAS

Main traffic lanes leading from entrances, lobby's 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. Examples are meeting rooms, board rooms and archive storage.

Barrier mats and regular vacuum cleaning will keep soiling to a minimum but eventually some effects of soiling will show themselves. The carpets 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 hot water extraction which flushes out ingrained soiling using a shampoo, then rinses the carpet to remove any detergent residues which could encourage re-soiling.

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.

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. all compounds which include a high proportion of water, 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