

Deep Clean Your Carpet

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

Many carpet manufacturers recommend cleaning your carpets once per year.

If your carpets are very dirty, the most effective way to eradicate the mess is to hire a professional cleaning company. These experts utilize commercial-grade cleaners and equipment to take out the tough stains. Call your local professionals to get your carpet looking brand new, then use these tips to maintain it.

ELIMINATING FRESH STAINS

Even with great care, accidents happen. Small children, pets and even adults are prone to spills. The key to preventing a stain is to act quick and attack the mess with a proven carpet-stain remover.

The experts at Better Homes and Gardens suggest removing excess fluids ASAP when you notice a spill. Gently blot away liquid with a clean, absorbent cloth. Work from the outside edge of the stain toward to center to limit its chances of spreading. Next, follow the manufacturer's instructions from the back of the stain remover. It's important not to

overspray on the stain, as you can ruin the backing of your carpet. Once the suggested time has passed, blot the stain from the outside in with a clean towel. It may take a few times, but soon the stain will transfer from your floor to your towel.

MAINTENANCE

Even if you're not fighting stains, your carpet demands attention to remain in its best condition.

Make sure you're vacuuming enough and at the right height. To find the correct level for your floor, adjust the machine until you feel it try and tug itself forward. Vacuuming often is a great way to protect your carpet as it rids areas of oily soils which can lead to stains. Don't forget to change the bags and filters as recommended by the vacuum's manufacturer.

HEALTH CONCERNS

According to the American Lung Association, carpets trap pollutants like dust mites and other allergens allowing toxic gases to stick and live in your home. Consider hiring a professional cleaning service to annually tend to your floor.



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REAL ESTATE 101

The Carpet Market

If you're in the market for carpet, you'll need to consider the material and style while shopping. Are you looking for wool (pricey but durable), nylon (affordable and resists stains) or polyester (most affordable but less durable)? Do you care for a cut pile (short), twist (longer and a bit more casual) or frieze (shaggy) look? And don't forget to factor in padding, delivery and installation into your budget.



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HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Marketable title: a title that a court of equity considers to be so free of material defects and liens that it will force the title's acceptance by questioning purchaser.

SOURCE: Homeclosing101.org

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