

Though there are different carpet types, fibres, colours and finishes, one thing binds this diversity together – the need for regular care and maintenance. It's a simple way to prolong the life and enhance the performance of your floor covering investment and keep it looking like brand new for many years. Here you can find some general guidelines to follow.

Carpet

Lift It Up

Small particles, dirt and dust that get trapped into the carpet pile often times are abrasive and sharp and can damage the pile of the carpet. **Regular vacuuming** will reduce the chance of it happening. It'll keep these particles away and make it look better.

Use Modern Technology

Using the right tools is equally important. If you can allow it, invest in one of the **bagless vacuum cleaners** offered today. It will save you time and effort, plus increase your effectiveness. On the other hand, if you're stuck with an old vacuum that uses bags, change the bag frequently. This will make your work more efficient and help avoid dust blowing back onto the carpet.



Keep It Out of The Sun

Just like the sun damages your skin, it's equally harmful to your home carpet. It's UV rays can damage its colour and fibres over time. If you want to avoid it, **shut curtains and blinds** in the sunniest parts of the day or use ultraviolet glass or film in your windows.

Use Protective Measures

What protective measures you may ask. Well, solid, heavy furniture makes a home look just fabulous but it takes its toll on your carpet. It crushes the carpet pile and leave marks that often go unnoticed until you redecorate. In order to avoid it, **use pads and protective caps** or re-arrange the furniture from time to time.

Cut the Snags

Looped carpets are great floor covering, but that comes at a price. This type of carpet snag over times – especially around the seams. When you spot a snag, don't pull it but act as if you are dealing with an expensive suit – grab the scissors and **cut it carefully**.



Watch Out for Spills

Accidents do happen, no matter how careful people are. Even if you eat or have a glass of wine over the sink, the inevitable will

occur. When this happens, don't panic or rush for the exit, unable to bear the sight. **Begin the clean-up process as soon as possible.** Take a clean cloth to remove as much liquid or solid particles as possible. Remember that the more you wait, the worse it gets – fibres will absorb more of the stain with time. Also avoid using hot water and scrubbing! Just press the cloth to absorb the stain. Otherwise, you can cause damage to the fibres. Rinse the area with warm water, dabbing with dry cloth to absorb moisture. If you have problems with treating common stains check out our guidelines here.

Stay Informed

Your home carpet is a textile product. It's like a piece of clothing, though it doesn't come with a white tag. However, carpets come with lots of maintenance literature supplied by the manufacturer. As we have mentioned above, carpets offer great diversity of fibres, styles and finishes, each of them sometimes requiring specific cleaning methods. Imagine throwing a delicate silk blouse in the washing machine... The effect on the fabric would be devastating! You can do the same mistake with your carpet, too. **Stay informed and avoid costly mistakes.**



Call In the Pros

Foot traffic and time take their toll and there isn't much you can do. It's just a fact of life. In such case **you need professional carpet cleaning services.** But don't forget to check with your carpet manufacturer warranty about specific instructions on the kind of specialist cleaning required to keep the warranty intact. When necessary, **contact a reputable carpet cleaning company** to restore your home carpets to their original looks. The experience, knowledge and professional equipment can do a lot towards eliminating set-in stains, unsightly blemishes and preserving the attractive look of your home.

Area Rugs

Vacuuming is Good

Vacuum or sweep your rug regularly as you would a wall-to-wall carpet. But must watch the fringes! You definitely don't want to pull them out of the vacuum machine. Handmade rugs would benefit from turning them over and vacuumed. You can see that all the dirt has filtered down.

Turn

If your rug gets too much or too little exposure to sunlight, it might fade faster on one side. Avoid this by **rotating the rug** annually or every six months. This will help **prevent uneven fading** and allow harmonization of colours and nice aging patterns.



Spot a Stain? Clean It!



Spills have to be dealt with immediately! Dry a water spill using a hair dryer set on warm temperature. It's best to dry both sides. Any other

substances, both liquid and solid, should be either blotted or scrapped as quickly as possible. Then use salt or backing soda to absorb the rest. When the area has dried vacuum off the backing soda or salt. If you use rug cleaner, test on an inconspicuous area for colour fastness. To deal with old or persistent stain **hire a professional rug technician.**

Listen to the Pros

If you bought a delicate handmade rug, it's always best to have it **cleaned by a professional.** On the other hand, ask manufacturer for cleaning information, if you have a machine made rug. Most of them can be machine washed while others can be hand scrubbed and dried outside.

Store It Away

If you have to store a rug for a long period of time, choose a dry, dark place. First, vacuum clean the rug or get it professionally cleaned. If it's handmade or made of natural fibres, pack it with mothballs to prevent damage. Roll the rug instead of folding it.

