

Venture

Carpet Maintenance Guide for Broadloom and Carpet Tile

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Venture Carpets Inc.
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Carpet maintenance guide for broadloom and carpet tile

We appreciate your choice and we will continually strive to earn your business through service after the sale. One of the ways we do that is by providing you with the best possible information regarding the care and maintenance of your carpet. We want you to have an enjoyable experience with your carpet throughout its life on your floor. With this guide, we want to help you maximize your carpet investment by showing you how to implement an effective carpet maintenance program right from the start. A comprehensive maintenance program will extend your carpet's performance, appearance and life. The longer your carpet lasts, the less it costs.

1. Surface Wear

1.1 Preventive maintenance keep the dirt out

An often overlooked, but vitally important part of a maintenance program is preventive maintenance, which prevents soil from being deposited into the carpet. The best way to do this is with proper and adequate walk-off systems at all entrances and other sources of soil.

Proper walk-off material is able to scrape and hold large amounts of dry soil as well as absorb water or oil-based moisture.

Adequate walk-off material should capture five or six footsteps roughly 10-15 feet. This amount has been shown to trap 80% of the soil and moisture that would have migrated into your facility.

Along with placing walk-off material at all entrances to your facility, you can use mats at other sources of soil, such as break room, water fountains and coolers, to prevent soil from being deposited into the carpet. For walk-off material to be effective, we recommend daily vacuuming, just as with your other surfaces. Actually, walk-off material requires more frequent cleaning because it is your first line of defense and accumulates soil much more quickly. If this accumulated soil is not removed, the walk-off material will become saturated with soil and lose its ability to prevent soil from entering your facility.

1.2 Thorough preventive maintenance includes

Keep sidewalks and parking areas clean using pads to prevent casters from grinding soil into the carpet. Placing trashcans in easily accessible areas.

1.3 Preventive maintenance facts

A 15 ft. walk-off tile area effectively removes about 80% of soil and moisture before it reaches the carpet. Removing a pound of dirt once inside a building is estimated to cost more than \$500. It is estimated that up to 24 lbs. of dirt can be tracked in by 1,000 people entering a building over a 20-day work period.

1.4 Chair protection

Use protective chair pads or floor mats in all areas subject to castor-chair movement or concentrated chair-leg pressure to prevent premature wear.

2. Vacuuming

2.1 Vacuuming: the most important maintenance task

Frequent and thorough vacuuming is the single most important component of a carpet maintenance program. Studies of the soil composition in a facility show that roughly 80% is dry, insoluble soil, or what most of us refer to as dirt.

The most efficient way to remove this dry, insoluble soil is with frequent and thorough vacuuming. Soil accumulation is inevitable if vacuuming isn't planned at routine intervals. The best way to plan your vacuuming is to identify high-, medium- and low-traffic areas. Continually monitor these areas for changes in carpet performance and make adjustments to the maintenance schedule as needed.

It is important to note that carpet is a three-dimensional product. Unlike hard, two-dimensional flooring, carpet has depth and the ability to hide soiling. Carpet can trap and hold up to one pound of dirt per square foot before it appears dirty, which is a major advantage that carpet has over other flooring types. Even though it may not appear dirty, carpet requires routine maintenance, particularly vacuuming, to remove soiling and keep it looking beautiful for years.

2.2 Vacuuming tips

Vacuum with slow, deliberate passes in length and width for maximum effectiveness. Heavy traffic areas require multiple passes back and forth to sufficiently extract embedded soil. Use a canister style vacuum that does NOT have a brush roller or beater bar. A commercial canister style vacuum will provide enough suction to help with soil removal. Slow movement allows time for air to circulate through the face yarn and extract soil.

2.3 Recommended equipment

To adequately remove dry soil with routine vacuuming, you will need to ensure that you use the proper equipment.

Venture recommends:

- A backpack or canister vacuum for floor and stairs.
- A wide-area canister style vacuum for large corridors and other wide-open areas is acceptable so long as it does NOT have a brush roller or beater bar.

[Click here to see Venture Carpets list of approved backpack or canister vacuums.](#)

2.4 Vacuuming frequencies & equipment maintenance

Just as you maintain the floor, you need to perform routine maintenance on your vacuums. Bags should not get more than two-thirds full before being replaced. The vacuum loses suction significantly and will not pick up much dirt with the bag is too full. See manufacturers suggested cleaning and maintenance guide they recommend to service the vacuum.

3. Spot cleaning

3.1 Spot cleaning is essential

Dry soil often hides within the carpet pile, but spots and spills can stand out, depending upon the carpet's color and pattern. Therefore, to keep your carpet looking as good as possible it's essential that spot cleaning become an important part of your maintenance program. Since most carpet manufactured today has mill-applied stain blockers and soil-resist treatments, your chances for success with spot cleaning are greatly improved if you act quickly and use the proper products, tools and techniques.

3.2 Take immediate action

Spot cleaning is often regarded as a cumbersome chore and very often the same large equipment used to perform deep cleanings of a large areas end up being used to clean spots that should be attended to sooner. Don't delay cleaning spots until your regularly scheduled cleaning. The best time to treat a spot is when you see it, and a simple way to extract it is by blotting it with a plain, white absorbent towel. If your cleaning staff has towels at their disposal, they can quickly blot up as much of a fresh spill as possible. If the spot has dried, blot it with a towel that has been dampened with plain water or a general-purpose spotter. This is a great first step to get as much of the contaminant out of the carpet as possible, and it can remove many common waterborne spots. If a residue remains, a spot extractor can be used at a more appropriate time and the spot will disappear with much less effort.

Another simple but effective option for spot cleaning is through the use of an absorbent compound. This method, often called dry extraction, uses an absorbent material that is applied to the affected area. The compound absorbs and dislodges the soil and is then easily vacuumed away. This cleaning method has the advantage of no drying time since little water is used.

3.3 Spill and spot cleaning

Spill and spot cleaning instructions;

1. Blot or scrape up the substance (DO NOT SCRUB)
2. Use a water moistened towel to blot up remaining spill
3. Apply cleaning solution or absorbent compound to the affected area

4. Deep cleaning and hot water extraction

4.1 Deep cleaning

Deep Cleaning is restoring the carpet's appearance by extracting soil and substances that can damage your carpet. Venture Carpets recommends hot water extraction as the most effective method to give restorative deep cleaning results. Soil is abrasive and will cause premature wear of the fibers if it is not properly removed and hot water extraction is the only method that can remove the soil and residue from deep down in the fibers.

4.2 Hot water extraction cleaning method

Hot Water extraction uses the high-pressure force of water injected into the carpet followed by powerful vacuum suction to remove suspended soil. Use your cleaning agent as a pre-spray, agitate, and then rinse with your extractor using plain water.

4.3 Hot water extraction process

1. Vacuum thoroughly to remove as much dry soil as possible
2. Pre-spray with cleaning agent
3. Agitate with a counter rotating brush or carpet rake to work the pre-spray throughout the carpet pile and suspend the soil
4. Rinse with plain water

Note: During extraction, it is essential to extract as much moisture as possible with dry passes (3 to 4 dry passes per each wet pass). Enhance the drying time by using air movers allowing three to four hours drying time after the last extraction before traffic is allowed on the carpet.

5. Other important recommendations

5.1 Beyond vacuuming and routine spot cleaning

In addition to preventive maintenance, proper vacuuming and spot cleaning, a planned program of both interim and deep cleaning is the best approach to maintain your carpet's appearance by extracting soil and substances that can damage your carpet.

When deciding on the right carpet for your business, it was necessary to consider many factors unique to your own needs. The same is true when considering the most appropriate cleaning method for your carpet. Just as there is no "one-size-fits-all" carpet, there is no "one-size-fits-all" maintenance program. However, there are cleaning principles that apply across the spectrum, and apply to carpet the same way they apply to cleaning any other object.

5.2 Time agitation chemistry temperature

5.2.1 TIME is for dwell time, allowing the cleaning agent to do its work in breaking the bond between the soil and fiber and either dissolving it, absorbing or encapsulating it. Just as we don't apply toothpaste to our teeth and immediately spit it out, we can't expect good results if we apply cleaning agents to the carpet and then immediately remove them.

5.2.2 AGITATION is for mechanical agitation, which serves to work the cleaning agent throughout the carpet pile and to help break the bond between the soil and the carpet fibers.

5.2.3 CHEMISTRY is any carpet-appropriate cleaning agent that is used to remove soil. Different types of soiling require different types of cleaning agents. We use chemistry in cleaning every day of our lives and should not be afraid to use it appropriately when cleaning carpet.

5.2.4 TEMPERATURE means using the appropriate temperature for the type of soiling. This mainly applies to wet extraction and does not always mean heat. Heat is a catalyst that speeds up chemical reactions and aids in the cleaning process by helping to lower surface tension and loosen most soiling bonds.

These principles apply regardless of the cleaning method you employ. Optimal cleaning results will be achieved when using all of these principles together. Should you find that one of the principles is not available to you such as lack of hot water, you will need to increase the use of the other principles, i.e., more agitation or dwell time to achieve equitable results.

5.3 Warning!

Do not use these cleaning products on any Venture carpet:

- Chlorinated cleaning solutions
- Petroleum distillates
- Quarternary solutions
- Toxic or flammable solvent-based cleaners
- Oil-based de-foamers

Cleaning products should have a pH level below 10 for nylon carpet. Water temperature should never exceed 160 degrees.

