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How To Care For Your Area Rug

Your choice of wool carpet is an investment in beauty, practicality, and ease of maintenance. Ensure your wool carpet will last longer and look better by following the three basic rules of carpet maintenance:

1. Vacuum regularly.
2. Remove spills immediately.
3. Professionally clean as required (usually no more than once every year or two) based on their recommendation for your fiber type (wool, nylon, sisal, jute, silk, viscose, etc).

Vacuuming

The most important maintenance step is proper vacuuming. Regular and thorough vacuuming at least once a week and more often in heavy traffic areas will remove soil and dirt particles before they become imbedded into the pile of the carpet. An upright vacuum cleaner with rotating beater bar and brush or canister type with a power head are the most efficient cleaners. The head of the vacuum cleaner should be adjusted so that the brushes barely touch the surface of the carpet. The easiest way to do this is to place a sheet of paper under the vacuum and adjust it until you hear the beater bar hitting the paper.

DO NOT use a self-adjusting vacuum since they adjust too deeply into the pile and will cause excessive fuzzing.

DO NOT use an beater bar since this too will cause excessive fuzzing.

DO NOT use any vacuum made by Oreck or Dyson as these will cause excessive fuzzing.

No claims will be accepted when vacuum with a beater bar is used.

It is important to remember to move the vacuum cleaner slowly to allow time to remove soil, and above all, make sure that the dust bag is never more than half full. Remember you cannot over vacuum, and vacuuming should begin the day the carpet is installed.

Spot and Spill Removal

The following information provided by Wools of New Zealand www.woolsnz.com

One of the most crucial areas of carpet maintenance is the removal of spots and spills. Acting quickly when anything is dropped or spilled and always having the necessary cleaning materials on hand are of the utmost importance.



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Special Cleaning Guidelines

Wool Rugs

- With a dry cloth, blot out stain as much as possible.
- Mix a very small amount of dish soap with a cup of cold water. With a clean sponge and soap mix, gently remove remainder of the stain and then blot the area with a dry towel.
- Avoid excessive agitation.

Silk Rugs

- With a dry cloth, blot out stain as much as possible.
- Pour club soda onto a clean cloth and blot the stain. Use a dry cloth to absorb any excess club soda.
- Allow area to air dry.

Viscose Rugs

- Viscose rugs are constructed of wood cellulose fibers, which absorb moisture easily, therefore cleaning is not advised.
- If cleaning should become necessary, dry cleaning is preferable. However, always check with the drycleaner since some harsh chemicals may cause discoloration to the fibers.
- Do not spot clean with water as cellulose fibers can turn yellow or discolor when wet.

Natural Fiber Rugs (Jute | Hemp | Aloe | Sisal)

- Natural fiber rugs inherently have loose fibers and knots.
- Loose threads on the face of the rug should be trimmed with scissors. Do not pull loose threads.
- Spills should be gently blotted with a clean, undyed cloth. Work from the outer edges of the spill towards the center. If applying cleaning solvents, test on a small area first. For stubborn stains, use a professional cleaning service. Do not dry clean, as strong cleaning chemicals may damage or fade the rug.



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Knowing Your Rug

The following information will help you to understand your rug and to prolong its life.

Color

No two hand woven rugs are the same. Slight color variations are common for handmade rugs, as dye lots may change over a period of time.

Shedding

All wool rugs will shed. Shedding will subside over time, depending on traffic & wear. It typically takes 20-25 vacuums to curtail shedding.

Creases

Your rug has been rolled up or folded for shipping so it may included creases. Creases should disappear within 1 – 2 weeks when laid flat. Reverse rolling the rug overnight will help speed up the process.

Sprouts

Loose fibers or sprouts are a normal part of the break-in process of handmade rugs. To remove, use scissors to clip them even with the pile. Do not pull the fiber out.

Fading

If exposed to direct sunlight, rug colors typically fade over time, even if they are fade resistant.

Wear

As a general rule, rugs of all materials and constructions should be rotated every 6 – 9 months to balance the color and evenly distribute wear.



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TYPE OF TREATMENT

(Cleaning recommendations listed numerically on Spot Removal Chart)

1. Add cold water and blot
2. Detergent solution or WoolClean Dry Spot Remover #1
3. Methylated mineral spirits, turpentine, or WoolClean Dry Spot Remover #2
4. Chill with aerosol freezing agent or ice cubes in a plastic bag. Pick or scrape off gum.
5. Warm water
6. Clean nail polish remover (preferably acetone)
7. Isopropyl alcohol
8. Rust remover
9. Absorbent powder (e.g., salt, talc or Absorb-It™)
10. Absorbent cleaner (Host®, Capture® or Dri-Matic®)

CLEANING AGENTS FOR SPOT REMOVAL

DETERGENT SOLUTION Mix one teaspoon of clear dish washing liquid or detergent powder (containing no bleaches or strong alkalies) with a cup of warm water. This solution must be well rinsed with clear water.

ABSORBENT CLEANERS Host, Capture, or Dri-Matic.

Warnings:

- Some chemicals are hazardous (corrosive, flammable, toxic, etc.) and should be used with great care, strictly in accordance with their use and safety instructions.
- When applying Dry Spot Remover #2 or other solvent-containing products, have the work area well ventilated.
- Do NOT apply stain repellent treatments which contain any silicone because they tend to accelerate carpet soiling. Unique will not accept complaints where such treatments have been used.
- Always pre-test a cleaning agent in an inconspicuous place, such as under a piece of furniture or in the corner of the room, to insure that it does not remove color.

SPOT REMOVAL CHART

TYPE OF SPOT	ORDER OF TREATMENT		
	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Alcoholic Beverages	1	2	/
Bleach	1	2	/
Blood	1	2	/
Butter	3	2	/
Candle wax **	/	/	/
Chewing Gum	4	3	/
Chocolate	2	3	/
Coffee	1	2	3
Colas and Soft Drinks	1	2	/
Cooking Oils	4	2	/
Cream	2	3	/
Egg	2	/	/
Floor Wax	3	2	/
Fruit Juice	1	2	/
Furniture Polish	3	2	/
Gravy and Sauces	5	2	3
Ink (Fountain Pen)	1	2	/
Ink (Ball Point)	4	7	2
Ink (Felt Tip)	5	2	6
Ketchup	5	2	/
Lipstick	3	2	/
Mercurochrome *	2	10	/
Milk	5	3	2
Mustard	2	/	/
Nail Polish	6	3	/
Oil and Grease	3	2	/
Paint (Latex)	1	2	3
Paint (Oil)	9	3	2
Rust	3	2	8
Salad Dressing	2	3	/
Shoe Polish	3	2	/
Soot	3	2	/
Tar	3	/	/
Tea	1	2	3
Urine (fresh)	1	2	/
Urine (old)	1	2	10
Vomit	2	/	/
Wine	9	1	2
Unknown Material	3	10	2

* repeat step 2, **absorbent paper and hot iron



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Steps for successful spot removal

1. Blot spills with white paper towels or clean absorbent cloth. Scoop solids with knife or spoon.
2. Pretest spot-removal materials in an inconspicuous area.
3. Apply cleaning agent to an absorbent towel, not the carpet, and blot
4. Do not over-wet the carpet.
5. Work inward from the edge of the spot to prevent excessive spreading
6. Rinse by applying clear, tepid water using a clean cloth. Again, work from the edge to the center. Do not rub and do not over-wet.
7. Remove excess moisture by applying pressure with paper towels or absorbent cloth.
8. To dry: apply a ½" thick layer of paper towels over the wet areas and weigh them down. Change as the towels become wet. Brush the pile with your fingers to restore the texture after the area has dried.

General Cleaning

If you've taken care to vacuum your carpet as recommended, you may not need to clean your carpet for several years. However, when the carpet does start to look soiled, we would strongly recommend having it professionally cleaned by the dry foam, dry extraction, or spray extraction methods.

Aerosol Foam Shampoo: For light cleaning of small areas, aerosol foam shampoos can be used. The foam is to be sprayed sparingly (to avoid leaving an easily re-soiled residue) directly onto the carpet and worked into the pile with a moistened sponge or brush. After the carpet is dry, which generally takes less time than with liquid shampoos, the carpet is vacuumed.

Dry Extraction (Absorbent Powder): There are several cleaning agents available whose absorbent particles contain moisture, detergent, and solvents. After vacuuming, the powder is sprinkled liberally on the carpet, brushed into the pile, and then vacuumed out. Because the carpet is never wet during this process, there is no down time and the room is ready to use immediately. Any absorbent powder remaining after vacuuming will continue to absorb soil and can be removed in subsequent vacuuming, so there is no concern over residue causing quick re-soiling.

Spray Extraction Cleaning: With the spray extraction method, often incorrectly referred to as steam cleaning, the carpet is injected with a warm water and detergent solution under pressure so that the soil is suspended in the water and extracted almost immediately by a high-suction wet-vacuum system. This method is particularly useful for very dirty carpets because it removes deep-seated soil. Although spray extraction equipment can be rented, it is strongly recommended that this type of cleaning be done only by a trained professional since care must be taken not to over apply the cleanser or over-wet the carpet.

To find out more about cleaning products recommended by the Wools of New Zealand, please visit:

<http://www.woolcarpetcare.com/>