

# Carpet Maintenance & Care

Carpet is a homeowner-flooring favorite as it is available in a variety of colors, materials, textures and styles. It has a number of advantages over other flooring options, as it adds warmth, color, pattern and texture to any room.

Protecting your new carpet from daily wear and tear, dirt, stains and spills through proper care can help prolong your carpet's life. Though maintaining carpet can be a challenge; Flooring-Professionals.com has a few tips to help keep your carpet looking like new for years to come!

Here are 6 proven ways to help maintain your new carpet's appearance and prolong its life:

## **Avoid Carpeting High-Traffic Areas.**

When deciding which areas of your home should have which type of flooring, it is important to consider which areas have the most foot traffic—front door entryways for example and avoid carpeting those areas if at all possible. Carpet is great for living rooms, dens and bedrooms as it warm and cozy, but not the best option for front door entryways as dirt and mud are often present in these areas.

## **Wipe Your Feet!**

To minimize the dirt and mud coming in contact with your carpet, try your best to ask your family and guests to wipe their feet and take off their shoes when they enter your home. Placing an indoor and outdoor doormat at each entryway to your home will help reduce the amount of dirt on everyone's feet.

Along with putting doormats at every entry, get in the habit of taking your shoes off at the door to reduce the amount of dirt trekked into your home and onto your carpet as well. Keeping a shoe rack and basket of fun flip-flops or slippers by the front door is another great way to remind everyone to take their shoes off at the door!

## **Vacuum Carpet Regularly.**

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It is important to vacuum carpet regularly, as dirt and mud will inevitably get into your home—no matter how diligent you are about asking your guests to wipe their feet and take their shoes off.

Making sure your carpet is vacuumed regularly is one of the most important steps in carpet maintenance to extend the life of your carpet and ensure it looks great year-round. Vacuuming noticeably removes dirt and crumbs, minimizes the effects of foot traffic, removes allergens and helps reduce the dullness of your carpet.

At the end of the day, the more often you vacuum your carpet, the better it will look. Mark it on your calendar to vacuum heavy foot traffic areas of your carpet 2-3 times a week, and less trafficked sections once a week.

## **Protect Your Carpet.**

In addition to vacuuming on a regular basis, it is important to apply some sort of carpet protector spray to your carpet—especially after a professional cleaning. It is also crucial to re-apply carpet protectors on a regular basis, especially on stain-resistant carpet as the protective layer wears down over time.

Be sure to test any sort of protector spray on a small (preferably hidden) portion of your carpet to make sure it does not tint your carpet before using the protector on an entire room. Carpet protection sprays are the best way to proactively prevent dullness and overall wear and tear on your carpet.

## **When Spots and Stains Appear—Remove Them Quickly.**

No matter how well you protect it; once in a while you will spill or stain your carpet. The key to removing carpet stains is not to panic but remove the stain as quickly as possible. First blot the spill do not rub! Rubbing a stain can actually wear the fabric and set the stain permanently. Continue blotting the area until it is almost dry and then vacuum the area. Water left in carpet from improper blotting can lead to mold problems.

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You can avoid needing to purchase high priced cleaning products by taking good care of your carpet on a regular basis. As with carpet protector, be sure to test all stain and spot removers on an inconspicuous area before applying to highly visible areas of your carpet. For more carpet spill and stain tips check out maintenance for carpets & rugs.

## **Hire A Professional.**

No matter how well you maintain your carpet from day to day, it is crucial to have your carpet professionally cleaned from time to time. Paying a little extra to bring in a professional to deep clean your carpet will maintain the quality and extend the life of your carpet. You can research reputable professional cleaning services in your area or rent a steam cleaner from a local hardware store.

Though maintaining carpet takes considerable work, the payoff is significant. Through taking consistent good care of your carpets they can look like new and last for years to come. Be sure to check out [Flooring Professionals](#) for more carpet care tips and techniques, as well as to find a carpet sales & installation professional near you!