



MERIDIAN
ELEVATED ESSENTIALS

Carpet Care Guidelines

A carpet maintenance program should be instituted immediately after installation. A maintenance program is designed to help achieve optimum appearance levels and maximum use of life. Variables associated with the success of a plan may include but is not limited to proper employment of plan, cleaners experience, equipment, foot traffic, traffic patterns, environmental conditions, carpet location, carpet selection, cleaning budget and carpet use.

Maintenance Program

A comprehensive carpet care program consists of five elements:

1. **Soil Prevention** – isolation or containment of soil by proper mat placement and interior and exterior hard surface maintenance.
2. **Routine Vacuuming** – scheduled frequency for removal of dry soil.
3. **Routine Spot and Spill Removal System** – using professional spot removal techniques.
4. **Interim Maintenance System Cleaning Systems** – scheduled frequency appearance cleaning for all traffic areas.
5. **Deep Cleaning Systems** – scheduled frequent deep cleaning to remove residues and trapped soils.

A thoughtfully designed and implemented maintenance program performed by qualified personnel, properly equipped and trained, is essential for optimal long-term performance.

A) Selection

- When selecting carpet color, you should view large carpet samples during the day and by lamplight in the evening in the area of installation. The color you choose will look different under different lighting conditions.
- Light-colored carpets will show more soil and require more maintenance than dark-colored. Darker colors of carpeting are more effective in high-traffic areas. Multi-colored and patterned carpets are especially effective in hiding soil.
- The performance and quality of a carpet is directly related to the amount and quality of fiber that goes into the pile. The better the fiber and the denser it is packed, the better the carpet's performance. Thin, less-dense carpet will lose its surface appearance faster. Meridian recommends buying the highest quality you can afford.

B) Stain Removal

Most household spills can be easily removed using the steps below. Treatment of the affected area should begin immediately upon discovery as stain removal becomes more difficult with time. To start, locate your stain on the Common Stains Chart below and follow these steps:

- First, use a spoon, dull knife or a Carpet Cleaning Key to remove as much solid material as possible.
- Always work from the outside of stain to the center to prevent spreading, especially with large stains.
- Blot up liquid spills with a white towel or paper towel.

For best results, try to remove remaining stain with warm water only. If stain cannot be removed with warm water extraction or a clean, warm, wet cloth, or carpet spot remover, perform the following:

PROCEDURE A (for water-based, special water-based and greasy, oil-based stains)

- Mix a solution of $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of clear hand dishwashing detergent with 1 cup of water. Stir gently.
- Apply detergent solution directly to a white cloth. Dampen the carpet fibers in the stained area with the cloth. Avoid saturating the carpet.
- Wipe gently. Turn cloth frequently.
- Never rub, scrub or use a brush. This may damage carpet fibers. If necessary, use your fingertips to work the solution to the base of the stain. Do not over-saturate carpet; use small amounts of solution and blot frequently.
- Wet the stained carpet fibers with clear, lukewarm water to rinse.
- Cover the spot with an absorbent white towel or paper towel and apply pressure to blot.
- Repeat the rinsing and blotting procedures until you are sure all traces of the detergent have been removed.
- If the stain is gone, place an absorbent white towel or paper towel over the area cleaned, and weigh towels down with a heavy colorfast object, such as a weighted plastic wastebasket.
- Change towels or paper towels until carpet dries.
- If stain remains, perform Procedure B (for coffee, tea or urine, skip Procedure B and perform Procedure C).

PROCEDURE B (Do NOT use on coffee, tea or urine stains)

- Mix 2 tablespoons of non-bleaching, non-sudsing household ammonia with 1 cup of lukewarm water.
- Apply ammonia solution, rinse and blot as outlined in Procedure A.
- Do not dry with paper towels. Follow Procedure C to neutralize the ammonia solution.

PROCEDURE C

- Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white vinegar with 1 cup of lukewarm water.
- Apply vinegar solution, rinse and blot as outlined in Procedure A.

COMMON STAINS

Most Common Water-Based Stains

For these stains, start with Procedure A. If stain remains, complete Procedures B and C.

Alcohol	Grape juice
Baby formula	Graphite
Beer	Ice cream
Blood	Jelly
Candy	Latex paint
Catsup	Liquor
Chocolate milk	Milk
Clay	Soft drinks
Cola	Soil spots
Cologne	Syrup
Cranberry juice	Tomato juice
Felt-tip marker	Vomit
Food stains (general)	Water colors
Fruit juice	Watermelon
Fruit punch	Whiskey
Furniture polish (water-based)	Wine

Special Water-Based Stains

For these stains, start with Procedure A. If stain remains, complete Procedure C. Omit Procedure B.

Coffee
Tea
Urine

Greasy, Oil-Based Stains

For these stains, use Goo Gone®. Follow directions on package, then complete Procedures A, B and C.

Butter	Margarine
Chocolate	Mascara
Cooking oil	Mayonnaise
Cosmetics	Nail Polish
Crayon	Oil
Furniture dye	Oil paint
Furniture polish (oil-based)	Ointment
Glue*	Peanut butter
Gravy	Rouge
Grease (black)	Salad dressing
Gum*	Spaghetti
Hand cream	Varnish
Ink	Wax*
Lipstick	

*Freeze and remove solid materials before using cleaning fluid.

Important: Do not use any cleaner with a pH of 10 or higher. Before using, always test cleaners on a small, non-visible area for any discoloration of the pile.

Abnormally large or excessive stains may require hot water extraction method. Professional cleaning is recommended.

If stain returns— a condition known as “wicking”— simply repeat stain removal procedures, paying special attention to blotting and removal of all moisture.

C) Regular Vacuuming

Most dirt, and even dust, takes the form of hard, dry particles which can be removed with a vacuum cleaner. When left in the carpet, these gritty, sharp particles abrade the pile of the carpet. Regular vacuuming literally extends your carpet’s life as well as enhancing its appearance, so the type of vacuum cleaner you use is important.

A vacuum’s performance will vary based on the carpet’s fiber type and construction. A good vacuum typically has features that allow you to adjust the height, beater bar rotation and fan speed. Vacuums with large wheels, self-propelled vacuums and/or specialty tools can also help ensure easy and effective carpet maintenance.

Features

Adjustable height is the most important feature because this enables the machine to be used on a wide variety of carpet constructions. If your vacuum is set too high above the carpet surface, the vacuum can’t attract the gritty soil below. If the setting is too low, the vacuum’s beater bar or brushes can “fuzz” the carpet’s surface, causing it to look worn and frayed.

When vacuuming high pile, wool, wool-blend, and premium soft carpets, look for the following features that will allow you to easily maintain your carpet:

- Adjustable Height - Use the highest setting where appropriate
- Efficient Airflow - Avoid vacuums with very concentrated or sealed suction
- Large Wheels - Vacuum should glide easily across the carpet

When vacuuming thick loop, casual frieze or long pile carpets such as “shag,” you may need to completely disengage the beater bar and vacuum with suction only. For all other carpet constructions, use a vacuum with a rotating brush or beater bar. Change the bags often and check the beater bars for burs and gouges to prevent damage to the surface of the carpet.

D) Cleaning Recommendations

- Vacuum high-traffic areas daily, medium-to-high traffic areas twice weekly, and the entire house at least once a week with a vacuum that carries the Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval. (Visit www.carpet-rug.org for a complete list of certified products.)
- Even with regular vacuuming, soil particles and oily dirt will cling to carpet fibers. Foot traffic drives these particles and dirt deep into the carpet. Meridian requires professional hot water extraction every 18 months using cleaning products, equipment or systems that carry the Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval. (Visit www.carpet-rug.org for a complete list of certified products.) Periodic cleaning by a certified carpet care professional using the hot water extraction method will refresh carpet appearance.
- The most-used areas— entrances, doorways, traffic lanes and in front of chairs— will collect dirt faster than other areas. Clean these areas as soon as they begin to show soil. This will stop dirt from spreading and will extend the time between professional cleanings.

If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service at 888-309-0001.