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## **Spot Cleaning Guide for Carpeting**

### **What is Blotting?**

To Blot: Use a Cotton or absorbent paper towel works best.

Start with a clean towel or paper towel and begin by gently hand patting the spot. Slowly apply more pressure with each patting until you must stand on it to blot out more residues. Repeat with a clean towel until no more residue transfers to the towel.

### **Definitions**

**Spot** = material added/coating/dried into your existing carpet.

**Stain** = an alteration of carpet fiber coloring which directly changes the dyed color. (seek professional help)

### **1st Step: Identification**

By determining what caused the spot, you increase your chances of removal greatly. (Information is power)

#### **Is the spot any specific shape?**

Spills rarely form geometric shapes. Therefore, if the spot is clearly geometric (circle, triangle, square, etc.) proceed with caution. These spots may actually be stains and are usually caused by staining agents or paints used on furniture or other objects. To remove these stains you will need to contact a certified professional carpet cleaner.

#### **Is the spot crusty, stiff or sticky?**

In all likelihood the spot is removable. Please note that are some spots such as Rust can feel crusty. Seek professional help to remove rust.

#### **Is the spot lighter than the rest of your other carpet?**

This is usually an indication of bleaching from a spilled cleaning solution or some other cause. You will need to seek a certified professional carpet cleaner re-dye that spot.

### **2nd Step: Remove as much as possible.**

#### **Fresh Spills:**

Gently hand blot up as much as possible with absorbent paper or cotton towel. Eventually stand on towel till no more residue transfers to the towel.

Goey or thick spills first use a spatula or spoon to remove as much as possible. We recommend scooping and scraping toward the center to prevent spreading.

#### **Dried Spills:**

Return the spot to its prior condition/consistency by carefully pouring a small amount of room temperature water or carbonated water on the spot.

Then gently work it into the spot to re-liquefy it. After it is liquefied treat it like a fresh spill.



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### **3rd Step: After blotting stops working**

Pour a small amount of room temperature water on the spot and repeat blotting once more.

### **4th Step: But the spot is still there. Understanding the types of spot helps**

*For unknown spills scroll down*

**Before applying any solutions, of any type, test the solution in an inconspicuous place in the corner of your closet. If discoloration occurs, do not use!**

**Oil based spots:** Use a dry cleaning solvent such as Energine or Carbona. Most large grocery stores stock these. (see solution application step 5)

- Greasy foods
- Grease
- Oil
- Tar
- Butter

**Water Based Spots:** Combine 1/2 teaspoon of dish washing soap, 1/3 cup of vinegar, to 2/3 cup of warm water. (See solution application step 5)

- Juice
- Icy pops
- Soda drinks
- Foods or drinks high in sugar or starch

**Protein Based Spots:** Mix 1 cup of cool water, 1/2 teaspoon of household ammonia and 2-4 drops of mild dish washing detergent.(see solution application step 5)

- Poop
- Egg
- Milk
- Urine
- Chocolate

### **Unknown spills:**

First treat the spot as oil based stain, followed with step 3.

Still not clean? Treat it as water based spill second, followed with step 3.

Still not clean? Treat it as protein spill lastly, followed with step 3.

### **Step 5: Applying the solution**

- Use a spoon to apply the mixed solution.



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- Slowly work the cleaning solution in "From the outside edges towards the center"
- Do not rub vigorously! No brush or scrub pad! (This may cause permanent distortions in the carpet fibers)
- Finally, repeat step 3

**Step 6: Just in case. Good practices after cleaning a spot.**

- Rinse the spot with room temperature to ensure all of your cleaning solution is removed. Be sure to repeat step 3 afterwards.
- Another just in case solution is to prevent what we call wicking. To prevent wicking of the spot, place a 1/2 inch of paper towels folded several times over, on the area you treated. Then place something heavy and waterproof on top of the paper towel. Shoot for 10 lbs of weight. Let this sit for 12-24 hours. This technique absorbs any residual material which may migrate up from the backing of the carpet if it was missed.
- You can also put a fan on the area at any time.

**Step 7:** If there is any color remaining, it may be necessary to call in a professional carpet cleaner that can use more specific and more potent products to attempt removal.