

How to Care for Your Wool and Fine Rugs

By Carl Campy



Diamond Contract Cleaners

Specialists in Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

Learn how to keep your rugs looking beautiful for a lifetime.

Read this guide and you'll discover

- Understanding wool
- Cautions about wool
- Learn stain removal procedures
- How to pre-test a spotting agent
- 4 basic steps for spot removal

Provided as an educational service by
Diamond Contract Cleaners

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Understanding Wool

Your Wool rugs can indeed last for a lifetime. We have cleaned many oriental rugs well over 100 years old. These rugs are passed down from generations.

Wool is very durable and cleans well if cleaned often. This is much in part because it is a natural fibre.

Cautions about Wool

Spots and spills must be removed immediately. Since the wool is a natural fibre, it may stain easily. If you cannot remove the stain call a professional. As well, wool rugs should be cleaned on a regular basis **BEFORE** they appear soiled. The lesson here is with frequent, regular cleaning, wool rugs are easy to maintain but if allowed to accumulate soil, they are indeed difficult to clean.

Avoid bleaches and strong chemicals. Bleach will actually dissolve wool.

Speciality Fabrics in Rugs

Silk is a rare fibre that adds a unique texture and appearance to some rugs. The same rules apply with silk as wool. Extra caution should be taken with silk. As a general rule silk should not be allowed to get wet. Shrinkage and bleeding is very likely. Having said that we have wet cleaned silk rugs with excellent results.

Cotton rugs respond similar to wool.

Sisal, sea grass and hemp rugs should not be gotten wet . Avoid liquid spills as well as liquid spotting agents

Vacuuming

Rugs need to be vacuumed a minimum of once per week. Dry soil will cause your fine rugs to deteriorate. Use a vacuum with a beater bar if possible. Some rugs may need to be vacuumed without a beater bar in order not to fray the surface fibres.

When you have your rugs professionally cleaned, much care should be taken to remove as much dry soil as possible.

Rotation

Your rugs should be rotated at least every year to insure even wear. Simply rotate the rug so that you are not walking on the same areas.

Padding

The proper padding under the rug can protect it from dirt and slippage as well as protecting the floor beneath the rug.

Stain Removal Procedures

Use the following materials and spotters:

- Clean absorbent cloths to gently blot the stain.
- Neutral mild detergent. Our spray and wipe cleaner works well on most fine rugs. Call us on 0800 328 9550 for purchase info.
- White Vinegar diluted at 1 part Vinegar to 4 parts water.
- Surgical spirit applied to a cloth. Use the cloth to blot up oils.

CAUTION: Some rugs can be permanently damaged by spotters. Pre-test each product.

Pre-test Instructions

Pre-test any spotting agent by applying the spot treatment to an inconspicuous area. Gently agitate the tested area with a clean white cloth if colour appears on the cloth from the rug, do not continue.

3 Tips for Better Spot Removal

1. Remove it NOW. The longer you wait, the harder it will be to remove.
2. DO NOT USE Vanish or high residue products on your area rugs. Use a neutral ph spotting agent that is made for wool.
3. Use as little moisture as possible with silk, sisal, cotton and grass rugs. For these, apply a spotter to a cloth and gently dab the stain.

For General Spills and Spots

Use a neutral PH or mild detergent suitable for wool. Spray a small amount or apply the spotter to a cloth and gently dab the stain.

For Oil or Grease Based Stains

Apply surgical spirit to a cloth and gently dab the stain. Then saturate another cloth with the mixed white vinegar and water solution and dab the stain.

4 Basic Steps For Spot Removal

1. First soak up the excess liquid spill by blotting with an absorbent cloth or extracting with a wet vac or Bissell type spot machine. **DO NOT** brush or rub the stain.
2. Use the right spotter (see spotting agents). Don't use too much spotter. Using an inappropriate chemical may ruin your rug. Always pre-test the spotter.
3. Rinse the area with diluted vinegar and water solution.
4. Extract the excess moisture with a wet vac, or remove it by blotting with towels. Spread kitchen towel (stacked 6 to 8 sheets deep) over the affected area and place a weight, such as a book, directly on top. This will help moisture residue to soak into towels. Leave overnight and repeat if necessary.

Disclaimer: Use the techniques in this guide at your own risk. Be aware that rugs can easily be ruined. Pre-test each solution in an inconspicuous area before using. If you are unconfident about these techniques call us on 0800 328 9550

Professional Care for Your Fine Rugs

Depending on the amount of use, rugs should be cleaned at least every 1 to 3 years. We can clean most rugs at your location, or we can pick them up and take them away to be cleaned.

Our 7 Step Rug Cleaning Procedure:

1. Dye testing. We'll pre-test the area for colour fastness to determine if it can be wet or dry cleaned.
2. Dry soil removal. We use a vacuum which is 5 times more powerful than a standard vacuum called a pile lifter to remove as much dry soil as possible, while using the utmost care for fragile rugs.
3. Pre-treat any spots or stains that may be on the rug.
4. Soil suspension. The rug will be sprayed with a cleaning solution. Gentle machines are used to agitate the soil loose.
5. Extraction of soils. The soils, dust mites and pollens will be lifted out of the rug with our truck mounted cleaning machine.
6. Pile alignment. We use a special carpet grooming brush to realign the rug pile which also allows it to dry faster.
7. Sanitise & Deodorise. A dual sanitiser and deodoriser is sprayed across the cleaned rug to kill any residual bacteria that might breed in the damp fibres. It also imparts a pleasant smell.

For a FREE rug cleaning estimate or advice please call Diamond Contract Cleaners on 0800 328 9550 or email carl@diamondcontractcleaners.co.uk