

## **CARPET CLEANING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

### **CARPET CARE**

Implementation of an adequate cleaning and maintenance regime from the time of installation of your residential & commercial carpeting, makes it possible to safeguard your carpet's appearance, enhance the image of your installation and ensure continued high performance throughout its life cycle.

Care of your new carpet is a major determining factor on how long it will last. This document provides all the recommendations required for care, stain removal and cleaning to enhance the beauty of your carpet throughout its lifetime.

Poor upkeep, more particularly the use of unsuitable stain removers or detergents, can rapidly cause lasting and virtually irreversible damage to the floor covering. In such situations, Airlay International cannot be held liable.

As carpet has the ability to conceal soilage it can appear to be clean when it is not, however, this should not result in delayed cleaning and maintenance, because when it appears dirty it can be hiding very high levels of soilage.

### **MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

Regular cleaning done properly can put off more drastic cleaning operations such as "spring-cleaning" or "restorative cleaning" for a very long time.

- Vacuum in parallel lines, going against the direction of the pile where necessary in heavy traffic areas. Use just enough detergent solution to clean the carpet. Clean in straight lines wherever possible, overlapping each run by one third of the nozzle width to avoid any traces of passage.
- After each cleaning operation, go over the same area without detergent once more with just the vacuum cleaner.
- Extraction should be repeated in areas where visible dirt has not been removed with just one pass of the cleaning nozzle.
- Lastly, repeat the above, replacing the detergent with water, to remove all traces of detergent from the pile. If extraction has been properly performed, the ideal drying time should be from 6 to 12 hours, during which no one should be allowed to walk on the carpet. Drying time can be much shorter if special dryers are used.

Textile floor coverings are sensitive to chemical agents. The topside fibres and the backing can be damaged by aggressive agents such as alkali (ammonia etc), bleach and/or oxidizing agents (chloride bleach, hydrogen peroxide etc). Avoid drowning the stain - prolonged or repeated humidity can discolour and soften the carpet or even detach the backing, cause shrinking, warp carpet tiles, turn the carpet yellow or encourage proliferation of mould and bacteria.

A Program of Regular Carpet Maintenance should include the following elements:

- **Effective Vacuuming**

A vital element in any Cleaning & Maintenance Regime is to reduce fibre abrasion & wear. High usage areas should be vacuumed daily to prevent the unsightly build-up of dry soilage, dirt, dust and grit. It is absolutely essential to use a vacuum cleaner with a rotating brush for best results. This type of vacuum cleaner removes dust efficiently through its mechanical action. Vacuum cleaners with flat nozzles remove only a limited amount of dust and do not lift the pile. To prevent fine dust being discharged into the air, the vacuum brushing cleaner should be fitted with an additional efficient filter.

- **Periodic Cleaning**

The required frequency for appearance retention will depend on carpet colour, type of installation and traffic flow. To allow carpet to soil excessively before cleaning can lead to premature replacement.

## **SIMPLE SPOT & SPILL REMOVER GUIDE**

Spots and spills usually form 5-10% of soiling, with beverages & food spills the most common. Failure to remove unsightly marks on a regular basis increases the chance of permanent staining & leads to a decline in appearance. If the spill is liquid, blot up as much of the spill as possible with a clean white cloth. If the spill is semi-solid, scrape with a spoon or spatula and then blot with a damp sponge. Work from the edge of the spot towards the centre. Never rub a wet spill, this will only spread the problem.

If the spill proves difficult to remove, remember that the advantage of using Airlay Modular Carpet Tile is that the offending tile can be replaced with a tile from your shelf stock.

- **Water Based Stains**

For Water based stains like tea, coffee, fruit juices, some food stains, some water paints, blood and beer:

1. Scrape up any solid material using spoon or spatula.
2. Blot area immediately using absorbent material e.g. kitchen towel or use wet pick up to extract spillage.
3. Rewet area using sponge / cloth with lukewarm water and detergent solution then blot again.
4. A hair dryer used after treatment can reduce marking.

N.B. If spillage has dried, dampen it with detergent solution and proceed as at 2 – 4 above.

- **Oil based/greasy stains**

1. Scrape up any solid material using spoon or spatula.
2. Apply small amount of dry cleaning fluid or surgical spirit to cotton wool or cotton bud.
3. Work inward to centre of mark.
4. Blot area and repeat until stain no longer transfers.
5. Follow as at 3 above with detergent solution and blot.
6. Dry with hair dryer.

N.B. If spillage has dried, dampen it with detergent solution and proceed as at 2 – 4 above

If marks still remain it may be necessary to use the services of a professional carpet cleaner.

To be able to implement the maintenance program, access to the correct equipment is essential. Cleaning Airlay International's Carpet products with the incorrect non-approved methods, equipment and chemicals may result in damage to the product and invalidation of the warranties.

For further information refer to AS3733:2018