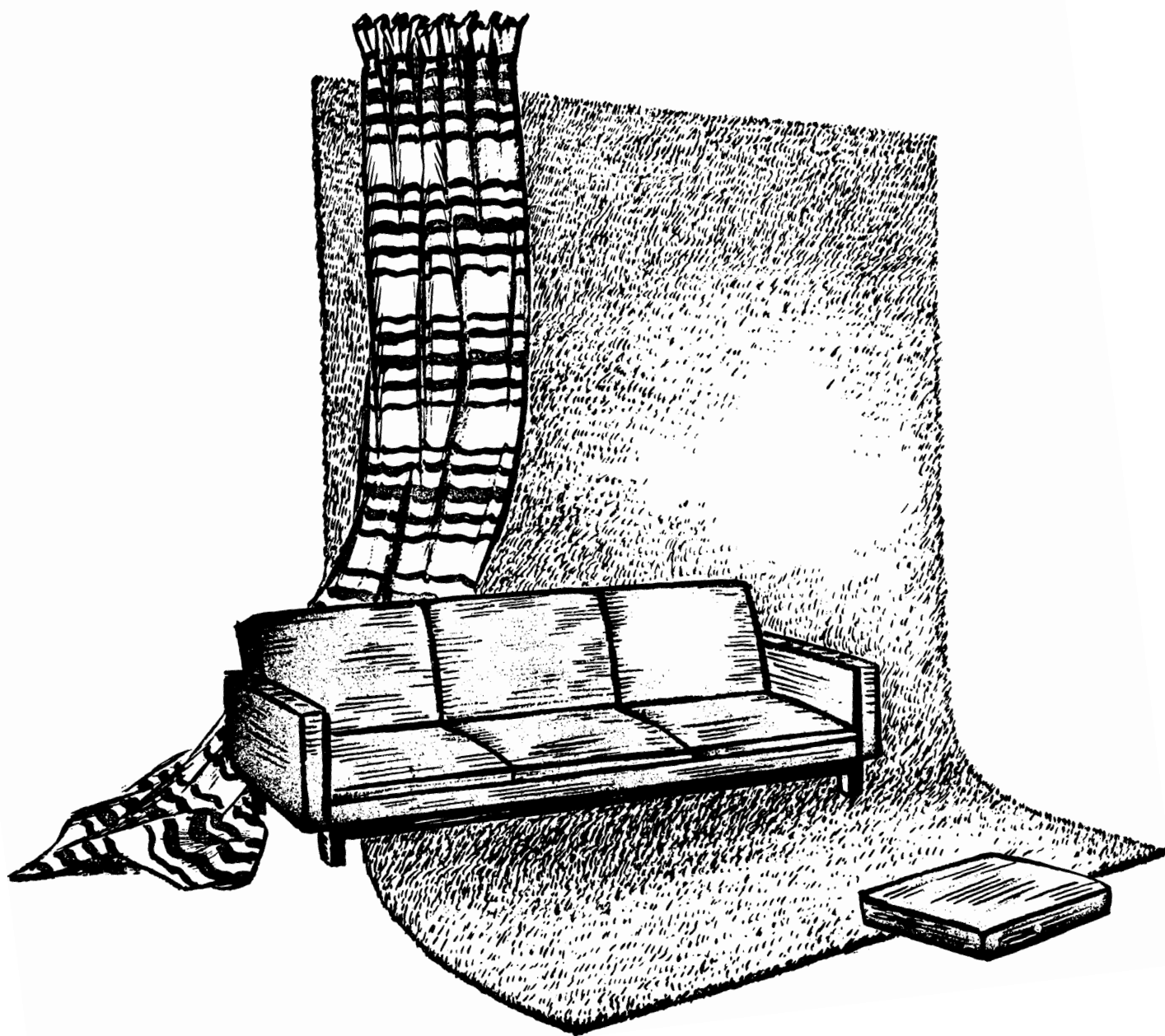


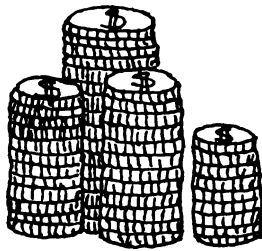
Longer Life

for Your Rugs and Upholstery



Longer Life for Your Rugs and Upholstery

BERNICE STRAWN*
Extension Home Management and Equipment Specialist



How much are your rugs and upholstery worth?

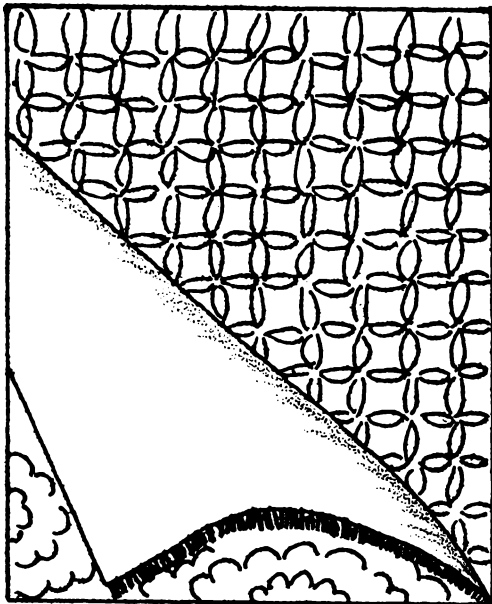
Whether you have new luxurious furnishings, heirlooms, or the basic necessities this part of your home represents a sizeable investment. The care you give your rugs and upholstery can mean dollars in your pocket and postpone the day when you'll spend more money for replacements.

Make Your Rugs Last Longer

Use a rug cushion

It fills in any uneven spaces in the floor and helps prevent worn spots. The cushion stretches the life of pile floor coverings, adds softness, and absorbs noise.

Cushions made of hair, jute, or rubber are designed for use under carpets and should be walked on as little as possible unless covered by a carpet or rug.



Clean thoroughly each week

Vacuum rugs at least once a week with an efficient cleaner to remove deep dirt. When traffic is heavy, vacuum clean more often to prevent grinding dirt into the fibers.

Turn rugs

Turn rugs around so they will wear and soil evenly. Change the location of heavy furniture occasionally.

Shift stair carpet

Buy an extra foot of carpet and fold it against the riser at the top of the stairs. Before the edges look worn, shift the carpet downward an inch.

Don't put lamp cords under rugs

They cause extra wear at the hump in the rug and are also a safety hazard.

Handle homemade rugs carefully

These are less durable. Do not shake or beat any type of rug. If washed, dry flat, and do not put through the wringer.

How to Clean Your Rugs

Can a dirty rug look clean?

Yes! It's true that a rug can hold practically its own weight of dirt and still the surface may look clean. Some colors and types of carpet show soil less than others. Unseen embedded dirt can cut the pile and increase wear and tear.

Every time an adult walks on a carpet a pressure up to several hundred pounds per square inch is exerted on fibers which may be surrounded by sharp dirt.

Kinds of dirt in your rugs

Surface litter and dust—Threads, cat and dog hair, and other litter will be picked up by an efficient vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper.

Embedded gritty dirt—This sinks into pile, out of sight, and is ground deeper with traffic over the rug. Agitation and suction are required to remove harmful hidden dirt.

Shaking of small rugs helps remove embedded dirt but is hard on rugs. Don't beat rugs; this loosens tufts of the pile and breaks the backing.

Vacuuming the back of the rug helps get deep dirt. The rug should then be turned right side up and thoroughly cleaned.

Professional rug cleaning will also remove the deeply embedded dirt.

What affects cleaning?

Construction of the carpet affects ease of cleaning. Deep pile and sculptured carpets require more strokes of the vacuum cleaner to remove dirt.

Cotton shag rugs, if not too large, may be washed. A suction type cleaner may also be used on larger shag rugs. Reduce the suction if it is difficult to push the cleaner.

Plan for regular cleaning

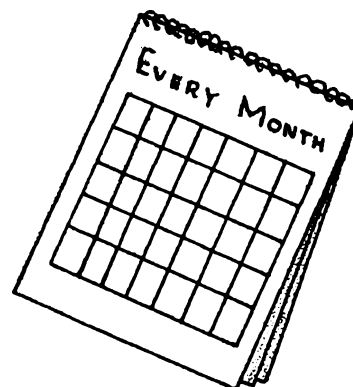
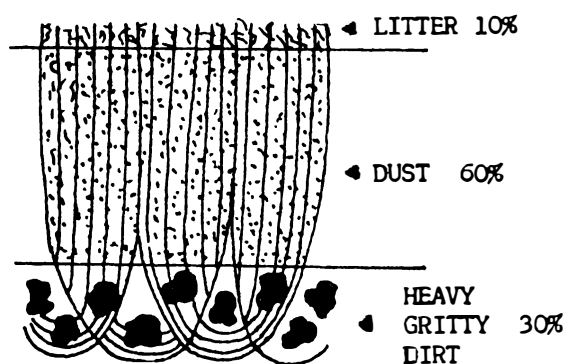
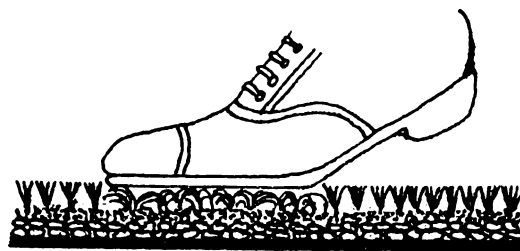
Daily care—Remove surface litter with vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper as necessary.

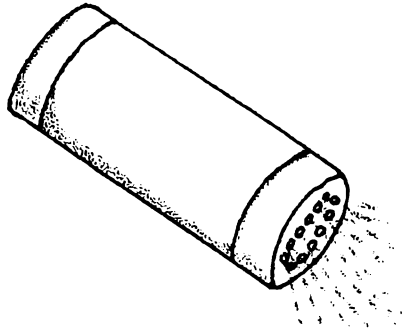
Weekly care—Clean thoroughly using about five forward and back strokes over areas of heaviest traffic. Clean wall-to-wall carpeting around the edges with crevice tool.

Seasonal care or as needed—Surface clean by shampoo or absorbent powder if necessary.

Yearly care—Vacuum rug cushion and back of rug. Have rugs or carpets cleaned professionally if traffic is heavy, or every two years if traffic is light. Turn the rug to equalize wear.

Emergency care—Remove spots and stains while fresh. See pages 8 and 9 for details.





How to Remove Surface Soil

Rugs and carpets can be cleaned and brightened on the surface by absorbent powder or shampoo. Which method you choose will depend on the equipment you have available, the type of rug or carpet, and possibly your personal preference.

Absorbent powder cleaning

When to use

This cleaner is a solvent-saturated or detergent-saturated powder or sawdust. Use for large or small rugs or carpets if not too heavily soiled. Check label on package for types of fibers for which cleaner is suitable.

What you need

- Vacuum cleaner
- Absorbent powder for rug cleaning
- Electric polisher-scrubber or
- Stiff brush, preferably with long handle

How to do it

- Thoroughly vacuum-clean rug.
- Consult directions on package of absorbent powder. Sprinkle powder generously over a small area; brush into carpet with electric polisher-scrubber to which rug cleaning accessory has been added. Repeat until all of rug is covered. If electric equipment is not available work powder into the rug with brush.
- Allow powder to remain about one hour. (See instructions on package.)
- Vacuum to remove powder as completely as possible.

Precautions

Some absorbent powders are flammable and should be used only in well ventilated rooms. Check instructions.

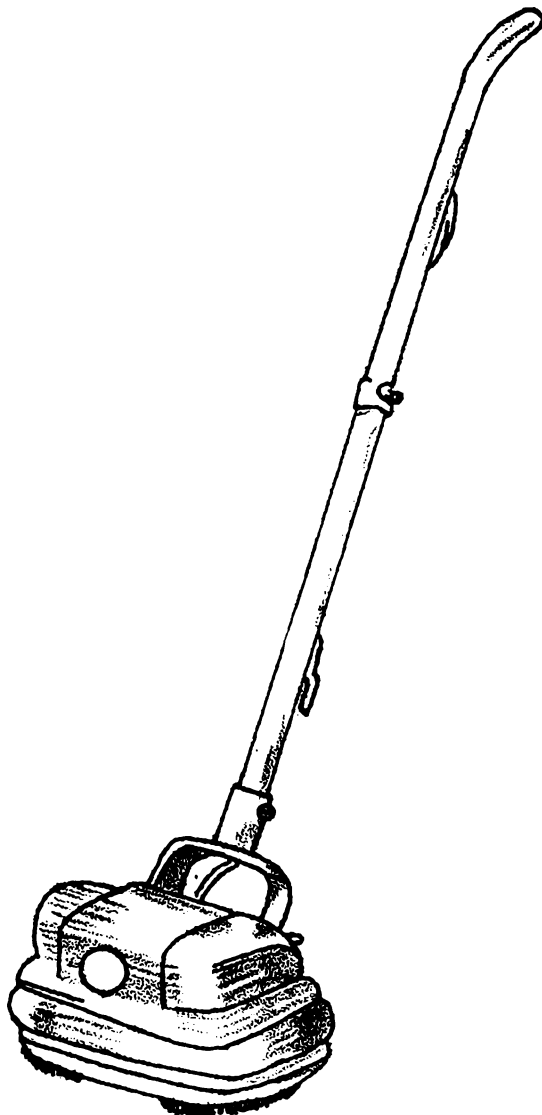
Avoid over-brushing as this can damage rug.

Advantages

- No color bleeding
- Less distortion of texture than with shampoo method
- No danger of shrinkage or wetting
- Best for oily, greasy, or sooty soiling
- Furniture can be put back immediately

Disadvantages

- Less satisfactory than shampoo for water-soluble soil or heavy soil
- Not suitable for cotton rugs
- Some powders have other limitations—see instructions



Shampoo or wet cleaning

When to use

Use this method for a rug of any fiber with fast color. Some twists and weaves should not be shampooed as texture may be affected. Pre-test shampoo on an inconspicuous area.

What you need

Vacuum cleaner
Special rug shampoo or
Light-duty synthetic detergent, mixing bowl

For mechanical method:

Shampoo applicator or
Electric polisher-scrubber with rug cleaning
accessory

For hand method:

Soft brush, spatula, sponges, cloths

How to do it

- Thoroughly vacuum the rug.
- Either use a special rug shampoo or whip $\frac{1}{4}$ cup light-duty detergent with 1 pint warm water until a stiff foam is formed.
- Apply the foam with shampoo applicator or polisher-scrubber. Follow the manufacturer's directions for details on use of the equipment. (If you don't have these devices, apply foam with a soft brush to a small area at a time. Remove soiled lather with spatula and rinse with clean cloth wrung out of clean water. Repeat using overlapping circles.)
- Use electric fan or reverse warm air blast from vacuum cleaner directed under rug to speed drying.
- When thoroughly dry, vacuum clean to remove any residue and suspended soil.

Precautions

Avoid over-wetting or wetting the back of the rug.
Use only the foam for cleaning.

Avoid traffic on wet carpet. Protect surface with plain paper or terry towels if necessary to walk on rug.

Avoid rust marks from metal tipped furniture by placing thicknesses of waxed paper under legs.

Use synthetic detergent; soap leaves a residue.

Avoid shampooing too often; more rapid soiling may result.

Pre-test a small inconspicuous area.

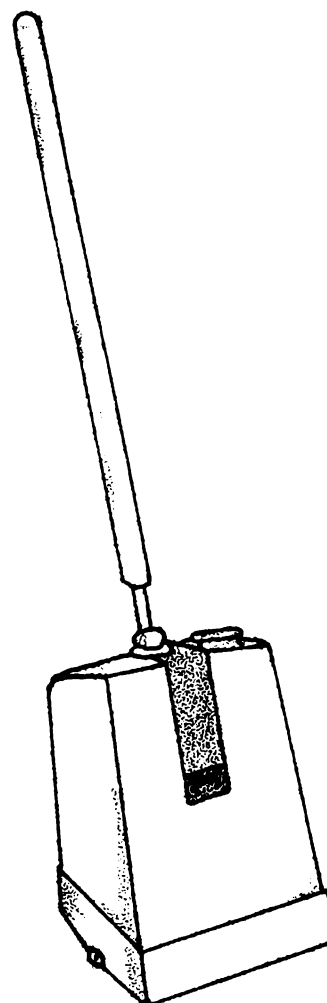
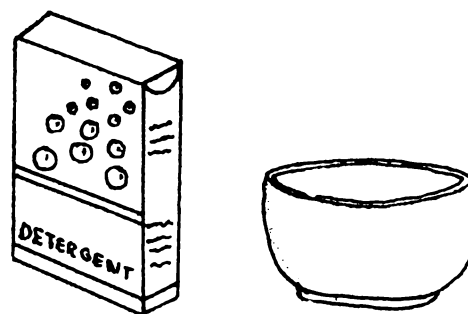
Cotton tufts tend to flatten; raise them by brushing.

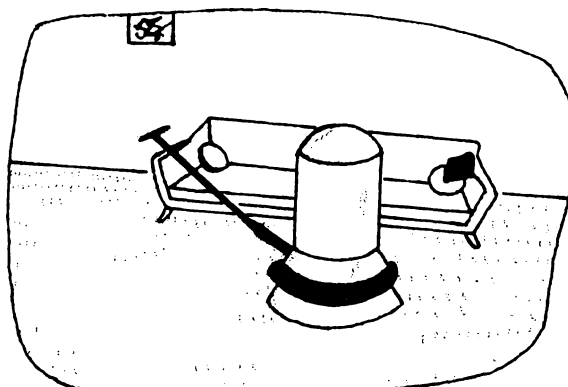
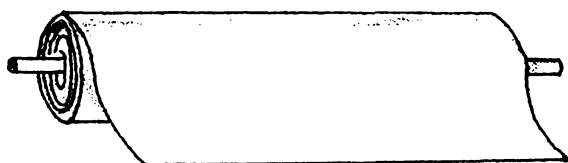
Advantages

Removes heavy soil from surface
Usable for all fibers
Some shampoos have a temporary mothproofing ingredient

Disadvantages

Danger of over-wetting and shrinkage
Room cannot be used for several hours
Frequent shampooing may increase rate of soiling
May alter texture of some types of rugs





Professional rug cleaning

Loose rugs and wall-to-wall carpeting which can be taken up should be sent to a professional rug cleaning plant at least every two years. Here a thorough cleaning is possible which will remove embedded dirt, surface soil, and most types of stains.

Some plants have stretching frames and other equipment to counteract shrinkage. Call attention to stains, also mention any necessary precautions for your particular rug.

The cleaner's services include taking up and relaying carpets and rugs. Re-dyeing, re-binding, and repairs are also done at some plants.

The professional cleaner will come to your home to clean wall-to-wall carpet and rugs. Good results are possible if rugs are not too badly soiled. However, when rugs are cleaned at home, thorough wetting, rinsing, and quick drying are not possible as in plant cleaning where more adequate facilities are available. Charges are about 9 to 11 cents per square foot.

Beware of Carpet Enemies

Mildew

Mildew is a fungus which grows on some types of rug fibers. It thrives in moist, warm, dark atmosphere.

The growth may be found in all parts of the rug—the fibers on the face and also on jute fibers of the backing. Roots grow down into the fiber and split it.

A musty odor during warm, damp weather may be a sign of mildew in rugs or upholstery. Rooms which are seldom used should be frequently aired. Expose rugs to fresh air and sunlight.

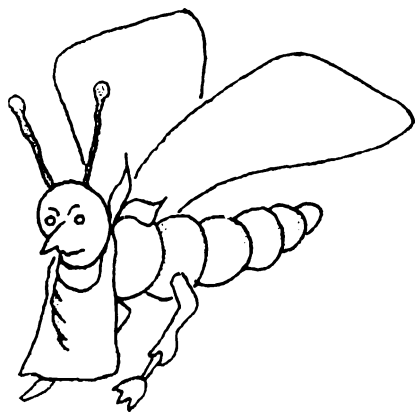
To treat mildew, remove the rug to sunlight and brush to remove loose fungus. Vacuum thoroughly; then sponge with detergent solution using 1 teaspoon detergent to 1 cup water. Let dry completely before replacing.

Moths and beetles

Moths and beetles attack wool or blends of wool and other fibers. However, most carpets made of these materials are now mothproofed at the factory. Man-made fibers resist insects.

If your wool carpet is not mothproofed take these precautions. Daily vacuuming is especially important in the summer. Eggs of moths and beetles hatch rapidly during warm humid months. Moth larvae feast on wool carpet for about 40 days while beetles continue to eat all year. The offspring of one female moth can eat an estimated 92 pounds of wool in a year.

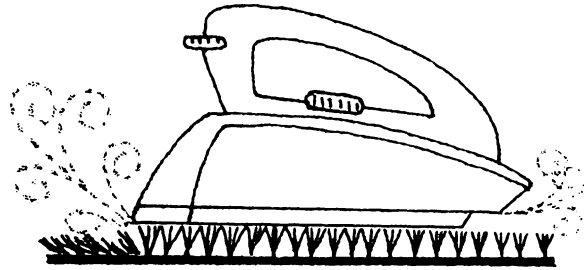
These insects also thrive in an atmosphere of dirt and darkness. In addition to plenty of air and light, a professional cleaning and mothproofing treatment is a good preventative especially before warm weather.



Special Rug Problems

Pile crushing or corner curling

Hold a steam iron over the affected area but do not allow the weight of the iron to touch the surface. Steam for a minute or two; then brush. Repeat until pile is erect. For curled corners, hold edges down with weights after steaming if necessary.



Fluffing or shedding

Fluff is the material which shows up on the surface of a new carpet. It is loose bits of pile left during manufacture and does not affect the life or quality of your carpet. Vacuum regularly and soon fluffing will stop when all the loose ends have come to the surface.

Sprouting

Some tufts in new carpets "sprout" or stand up above others after vacuuming. This is normal and not due to the cleaning method. Cut these tufts off, but don't pull them out.



Shading

Sometimes a change in color is noticed because the pile is not standing erectly. This may be caused by traffic. The light is reflected differently from these tufts giving a different color effect especially in solid-color carpets.

Run the vacuum cleaner with the direction of the pile to reduce shading. Rug cushions also help.

Shrinkage

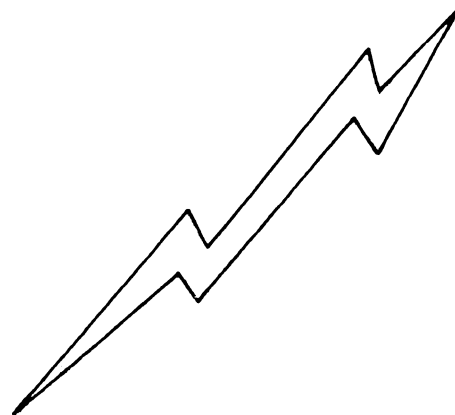
Very few carpets are guaranteed against shrinkage. Up to 10% of the length can be lost but shrinkage will depend on the weave and density of fibers on the face, not the type of fiber.

Cause of shrinkage is wetting of backing yarns. High humidity can also cause gradual shrinkage. Shrinkage is sometimes beneficial because face yarns are closer together and wearing quality is increased.

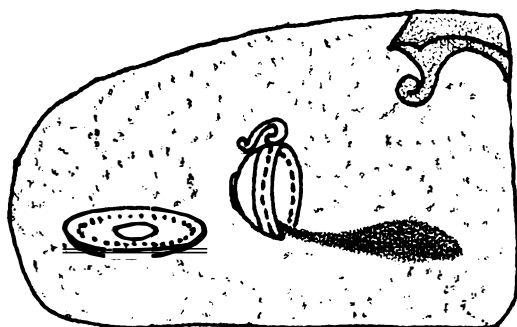
Static electricity

Static, caused by friction of walking across rugs, is not dangerous.

You can reduce static by increasing moisture in the air. Put a teakettle of water on the range several times during the day and let air circulate to other rooms. Some anti-static chemicals can be applied to carpets also.



Emergency Spot



General rules

- Blot or absorb liquid spills immediately. Use clean white unstarched cloth or paper towels.
- Don't brush or rub spot any more than can be helped. Work from outer edge toward center of stained area.
- Test any stain remover (including plain water or detergent) on carpet to determine its effect on dyes. If color comes off, call a professional cleaner.
- Dry a wetted area by blotting and leave a weighted cloth pad or paper towel on it to absorb moisture. Don't leave it to air dry.

For Stains You Can Identify

Type of stain	Examples	Treatment
<i>Oily materials</i>	Butter, grease, oil, hand cream, ball point pen ink	Remove excess material. Apply a <u>dry cleaning fluid</u> ; dry carpet; repeat if necessary; dry carpet and gently brush pile.
<i>Oily foodstuffs; animal matter</i>	Coffee, tea, milk, gravy, chocolate, blood, salad dressing, ice cream, sauces, egg, vomit	Remove excess material; absorb liquids and scrape off semi-solids. Apply detergent-vinegar-water solution (as given on page 9). Dry carpet as described in general rules (item 4 above). Apply <u>dry cleaning fluid</u> ; dry carpet and brush gently.
<i>Starches and sugars</i>	Candy, soft drinks, alcohol	Blot up liquids; scrape off semi-solids. Apply detergent-vinegar-water solution; dry carpet as described in general rules. Re-apply the solution, if necessary; dry carpet and brush pile gently.
<i>Stains</i>	Fruit stains, washable ink, urine, excrement, crepe paper	
<i>Heavy grease; gum</i>	Gum, paint, tar, heavy grease, lipstick, crayon	Remove excess material; apply detergent-vinegar-water solution. Apply <u>dry cleaning fluid</u> ; dry carpet and brush pile gently.

Unidentifiable Stains

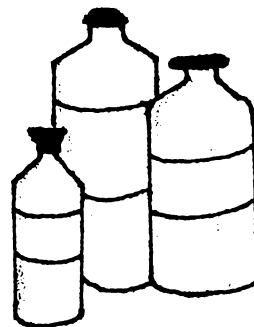
Follow general procedure listed at the top of this page combined with treatment suggested for "Oily foodstuffs; animal matter." Use judgment as to whether both types of cleaning solution are necessary or if application should be repeated.

and Stain Removal

Home remedies

Keep these two types of cleaning solutions on hand.

- **Detergent-vinegar-water solution**
One teaspoon light-duty detergent such as used for fine fabrics mixed with 1 quart luke warm water and one teaspoon white vinegar.
- **Dry cleaning fluid**
A dry cleaning fluid such as is used to remove spots from clothing. Be sure to note any precautions given on the label. Some fluids are flammable, others poisonous if fumes are inhaled.



Stains requiring special attention

Ashes; salt

Often used on icy sidewalks, these substances may be tracked in. Salt may cause fading or brown spots. Ashes are alkaline and harmful to dye and some fibers. Professional cleaning is recommended.

Brown spots

These may be due to wetting. Pure water alone which soaks into backing picks up brown substance, is drawn to the surface, and discolours tips of tufts. This is called "wicking" and after dry is almost always permanent. If water is spilled on a rug, blot at once and dry as described on page 8.

Cigarette burns

Reweaving may be necessary. Surface charring may be removed by the following treatment: Clip off blackened ends of tufts using small, sharp scissors. Next apply detergent-vinegar-water solution described above and dry according to directions at top of page 8.



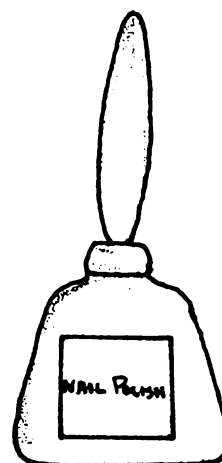
Rust

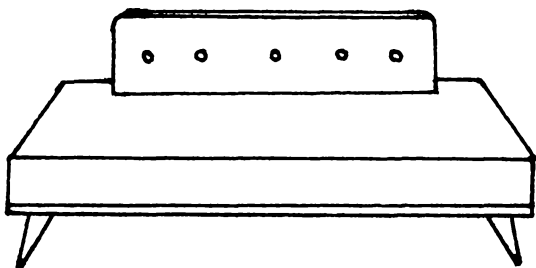
Rust stains almost always require professional service. However, if stain is fresh, follow general rules on opposite page using detergent-vinegar-water solution.

Nail polish

Nail polish remover can be used to remove nail polish stains except on carpets containing acetate. Some dyes are also affected by polish remover. Always pre-test on an inconspicuous area.

If stain is wet, absorb as much polish as possible on a dry cloth, taking care not to spread it. If stain is dry, apply polish remover with an eye dropper and allow it to penetrate and soften the mass. Repeat if necessary. Scrape off as much polish as possible with the dull edge of a spoon. Repeat as often as necessary.





Beauty Care for Upholstery

Before you start

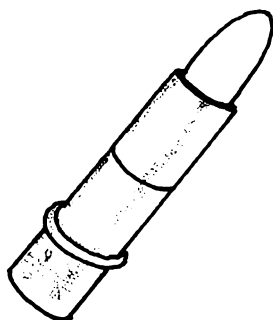
In cleaning upholstery consider the following points:

- Know what fabric or material you are cleaning.
- Know, if possible, the origin of stains to be removed.
- Consider what equipment is available.
- Know your cleaning product, its limitations, and precautions. Follow directions carefully.

Upholstery cleaning is much like rug cleaning except that there is greater variety in fibers and types of covering, each requiring some special consideration.

Vacuum clean upholstery two to four times a month using upholstery tool. Reach into crevices, seams, and corners with the crevice tool to eliminate moths and larvae. Moths eat the stuffing although the covering may be cotton or man-made fiber.

Most upholstery can be shampooed or cleaned with absorbent powder in the same manner as rugs. The method chosen will depend on the upholstery material.



Upholstery spots and stains

Stains are removed in the same manner as described for rugs on pages 8 and 9. These additional stains on upholstery fabric require special attention.

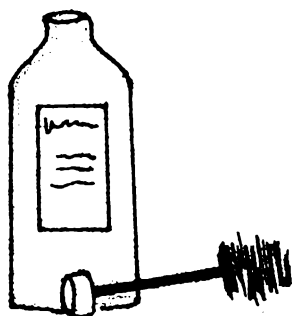
Lipstick: Dampen spot with cloth saturated with dry cleaning fluid; then press firmly with white blotter or paper towel. Repeat. If color remains, sponge with denatured alcohol.

Blood: Sponge with cold water. If stain remains, sponge with diluted ammonia, then with clear water. For stubborn stains, apply thick paste of cornstarch and cold water. Let dry and brush off or vacuum.

Urine: Sponge several times with water and blot up all the liquid. Apply detergent-vinegar-water solution as described on page 9.

Vomit: While stain is fresh, sponge with cold water; rinse with cold water. If spots remain, sponge with dry cleaning fluid. To eliminate odors, sponge with cool water to which a few drops of disinfectant such as Lysol have been added.

Shoe polish: Rub with petroleum jelly or lard to loosen. Sponge with dry cleaning fluid. Some stains on wool respond to denatured alcohol.



Leather upholstery

Dust leather with an untreated cloth or vacuum cleaner brush. Never use furniture polish on leather.

Wash soiled leather with saddle soap using a clean wet cloth to make rich lather as you rub. Clean only a small area at a time. While leather is still wet, wipe off with clean dry cloth; then put on a light coat of saddle soap and allow to dry. Buff with dry cloth.

A mild soap may also be used in place of saddle soap. For added protection apply a cream wax. Commercial leather cleaners may also be used.

If leather is dry and stiff, apply a few drops of olive oil, raw linseed oil, or lanolin with a soft cloth after washing. Rub off excess; buff with clean cloth.

Plastic upholstery

Wash with a damp cloth and mild white soap or detergent. Rinse and wipe dry.

Don't use abrasive powders or chlorine bleach. Cream wax will remove some types of spots. A foam-type cleaner is now available for vinyl upholstery.

Fabric upholstery

Pre-test cleaning products on inconspicuous areas.

Frequent light cleaning is preferred to annual cleaning; fabrics will last longer and come clean easier.

After vacuuming thoroughly, remove grease spots with dry cleaning fluid. Avoid inhaling fumes.

If fabric can take water, shampoo with synthetic detergent and water or commercial upholstery cleaner.

Whip $\frac{1}{4}$ cup light-duty synthetic detergent (not soap) with about a quart of water to make a heavy lather. Apply the lather only with sponge or brush working quickly and lightly. Do a small area at a time. Remove surface lather immediately with a spatula or cloth wrung out of clear warm water. Repeat the rinsing; then wipe with a towel in the direction of the nap to avoid forcing moisture into the fabric.

Apply lather to another area slightly overlapping the cleaned section and repeat the process. Brush nap in place when dry. Thoroughly dry before using.

If you use a commercial upholstery cleaner or rug shampoo, carefully follow directions on the package.

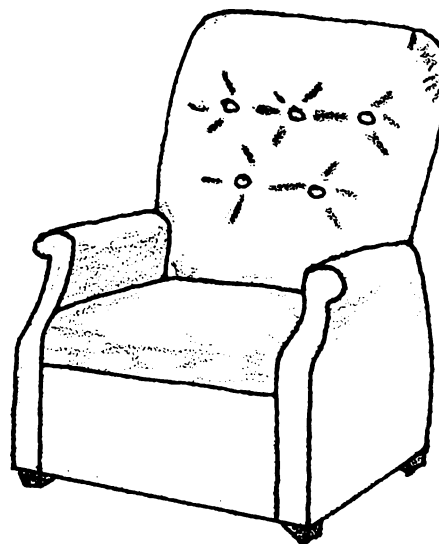
If fabric can't take water, sprinkle rug cleaning absorbent powder over upholstery; rub in with brush. Let stand about an hour; then vacuum.

Fabric over foam cushioning

Use above methods but observe these precautions.

If dry cleaning fluid is used for spot removal, use it sparingly; do not let it penetrate through the fabric. Solvents of this type make foam rubber sticky, but do not affect urethane—a newer type of foam cushioning.

Use either shampoo or absorbent powder method depending on the fabric. Absorbent powders also contain solvents which affect foam rubber and should be left on for the minimum time before vacuuming.



CAUTION

Read all labels carefully before using any household chemical. An increasing number of cleaners contain a variety of chemicals, many of which are dangerous if improperly used.

Keep all cleaners tightly covered in the original containers, out of reach of children. Never mix household chemicals not specifically recommended for use together. Some cleaners are flammable.

Dry cleaning fluid is both poisonous and flammable. Use in well ventilated room or out of doors.

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