

Cleaning and Maintenance Information

Floorcoverings

Latour Carpet Tile

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Stain Removal - Polypropylene Carpets

To obtain the optimum performance and satisfaction from carpets with polypropylene yarn it is recommended that the following information should be studied carefully and the procedures followed.

Installation Procedure

It is recommended that all Gradus Carpets are installed by qualified professional carpet fitters. For further information please refer to our detailed installation procedures.

Prevention Maintenance Programme

The use of a scheduled maintenance programme is the best way of ensuring long lasting performance from any carpet. Carpet has the ability to catch, hold and hide soil but if the soil is allowed to build up, the appearance of the carpet will deteriorate and unless the carpet is cleaned the deterioration may be permanent.

Choice of Colour

Although polypropylene yarn carpets are very easy to clean, it is strongly recommended that care be taken in choosing colours to suit particular locations. In both commercial and residential installations it is wise to specify medium to dark or multi-coloured carpets in high traffic areas, as these disguise soiling more effectively than plain, light shades.

Preventative maintenance can also be extended to include the use of walk off mats. This is particularly important adjacent to external doorways or in walk-ways between work areas and offices. Mats should be cleaned or replaced before they themselves become a source of soiling.

Steps in a Maintenance Programme

1. Pick up small pieces of debris and loose soil.
2. Use a light weight carpet sweeper to remove surface soil and debris in localized areas.
3. Vacuum clean the carpet using a good quality upright cleaner fitted with a reel type brush. This will move the tips of the carpet pile so that the dirt can be removed with the air velocity created by the vacuum. A cylinder type vacuum with no brushing action will have only limited effect. **NB.** Vacuum cleaners must be properly maintained. Damaged or worn brushes can cause serious damage to carpets and will not be effective in removing trapped particles of dirt.
4. Carpet showing moderate soiling may be cleaned with a dry cleaning compound. Propriety cleaners are available, especially formulated for carpet, consisting of a powder made up of tiny particles which work like sponges. The compound should be used according to Gradus Carpets recommendations but is normally sprinkled onto the soiled area and worked into the pile of the carpet with a brush. This is then thoroughly vacuumed after about 30 minutes. **NB.** Excessive use of this cleaning system should be avoided, as residual compound may eventually build-up in the pile of the carpet and itself lead to accelerated soiling.
4. To avoid heavy build-up of soil, carpet should be periodically deep cleaned. It is recommended that this operation be carried out professionally using a 'hot water extraction system'. This system uses a special machine which emits a solution of water and detergent into the pile of the carpet. Loosened soil is suspended in this solution which is then immediately removed by an integral vacuum attachment. It is most important that the carpet is not over-wetted and that the recommendations of the suppliers both the machine and the detergents used are followed closely.

Stain Removal

Polypropylene absorbs virtually no moisture, this means that with prompt attention most spillages stay on the surface and can often be simply blotted dry with no trace of staining. Even stains which have been allowed to "dry in" can usually be easily removed using the following procedures:

- a. Treat spillages promptly to prevent damage to the structure of the carpet. Blot (not rub) wet spills with tissue, cloth or paper towel. A crusty stain should be tapped to break-up the incrustation so that as much as possible can be removed before actual cleaning. In the case of glutinous or sticky substances, a spatula or blunt knife should be used to remove as much as possible before cleaning.

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- b. Attempt to determine the composition of the stain so that the appropriate cleaning agent can be selected from the accompanying Stain Removal Guide.
- c. Work from the outside to the centre of the stain with the appropriate cleaning agents. Use the minimum amount of agent necessary to remove the stain to avoid excessive wetting of the carpet which could lead to quicker resoiling.
- d. Use a blotting action and avoid excessive rubbing which may cause distortion and reduced definition of the pile.
- e. Continually use a clean area of the towel or tissue, otherwise the stain may simply be re-applied to the carpet.
- f. Extreme care must be exercised in the use of volatile solvents or bleach. Avoid breathing the fumes and follow the supplier's instructions and warnings, particularly with regard to naked flames, ventilation and the use of protective gloves and clothing.

In addition, some solvents such as nail polish remover may damage the latex backing, reducing the bond of the pile yarn to the backing. It is extremely important that when using such substances the absolute minimum is used to remove the stain.

Gradus Carpets Limited shall under no circumstances be responsible for damage to the carpet or other property or for personal injury caused as a result of improper use of these recommendations, nor for incidental, consequential or other damage from negligence, misuse or handling of the chemicals mentioned in the Stain Removal section of this guide.

Stain	Cleaning Agent	Stain	Cleaning Agent
Beer	2	Lipstick	4, 6
Berry Stains	1	Milk	2
Blood	1, 6	Mustard	1
Butter, Margarine	2	Nail Varnish	5
Carbon Black	2	Oil	4
Chewing Gum	4	Paint Latex	3, 4
Chocolate	1	Paint Oil	3, 4
Chocolate Drink	1	Rubber Adhesive	3, 4
Coffee	1	Shoe Polish	1, 2, 4
Cola	1	Tea	1
Crayon Wax	1, 5, 6	Urine	1, 6
Egg	1	Water Colour	1, 6
Fruit Juice	1	Wine (Red or White)	1
Furniture Polish	1, 5	Emulsion Paint	4
Gravy	2	Felt Tip Pen (Washable)	2
Ink (Permanent)	2, 4	Felt Tip Pen (Permanent)	4
Ink (Washable)	1	Curry	
Iron Rust	1, 6		
Ketchup	2		

Cleansing Agents Code:

1. Water.
2. A proprietary carpet cleaning solution.
3. Oil or latex based paint remover.
4. A volatile solvent (dry cleaning fluid).
5. Acetone or non-oily nail polish remover.
6. Domestic bleach/water solution 50/50.

Information concerning human and environmental exposure to these chemicals should be reviewed with the appropriate suppliers, whose specific instructions and recommendations should be followed.