

AVANCE COMMERCIAL CARPETS MAINTENANCE GUIDE

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1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of a carpet maintenance programme is to assist in preserving the original appearance and texture of the carpet for as long as possible, thus protecting the asset value as well as the aesthetic enjoyment.

It is not traffic alone, but also soil and grit, that contribute to the wear of the pile and change the appearance of a carpet. Soil, mud, grit and other foreign substances are constantly being carried onto the carpet surface through air pollution, wind and mostly on the soles of people's footwear.

In order to effectively prolong the life of a carpet, these substances must be removed as soon as possible to prevent them from settling deeper into the pile, or staining the carpet fibre.

Cleaning methods and schedules should only be determined after careful consideration of the following:

- 1 Location of the carpeted area – e.g. office, corridor or passage.
- 2 Situation of the building – e.g. air pollution is greater near a busy international airport, industrial area or major motor highway, while more grit can be expected near a beach.
- 3 Traffic volumes and concentration due to access routes.
- 4 Nature of soil likely to be trodden onto the carpeting – e.g. ground floor entrance, parking garage entrance, ceramic tiled area at buffets in restaurants, spills from beverages and cleaning trolleys.

Only when the need for effective maintenance is acknowledged and implemented will a carpet deliver its full potential and retain the value of the asset, which it represents.

2 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

PRODUCT SELECTION, COLOUR AND DESIGN

Carpet care starts with the selection of the correct product. If the choice is not suited to the application, effective maintenance will be difficult if not impossible.

Choice of pile fibre content and weight must be determined by the volume of traffic and nature of the area to be carpeted – e.g. corridor, boardroom or office.

Careful consideration must be given to colour and design, which contribute considerably to appearance retention and soil hiding ability between scheduled cleaning. Plain and/or lighter colours should be reserved for areas where soiling is less prevalent.

Although certain fibres, designs and colours are more forgiving, this does not mean that these require less maintenance.

WALK-OFF / BARRIER MATS

The use of walk-off mats at all external entrances will significantly reduce the ingress of soil and dirt onto carpeted areas.

It is vital that these mats are correctly selected, with paying special attention to type, size and position. Heavy duty mats with scrapers and squeegee inserts are recommended for street and garage entrances.

Proper maintenance and regular cleaning are equally important to the effectiveness of these mats.

HIGH WEAR HAZARDS

For an office environment, Chair Protectors are recommended where caster-chairs are used. Beware of moisture buildup under these elements as this could cause rapid rotting of any non-synthetic materials.

Carpeting on stairs is also a high wear area; stair-nosing and correct specifications are required for such applications.

Finally, the typical non-slip, highly abrasive soles of today's leisure shoes create very high friction on carpet-pile-fibres, and this, together with the abnormal loading caused by stiletto heels and spiked shoes, can cause rapid deterioration of the carpet pile and significantly affect appearance retention and the life of a carpet.

3 VACUUMING AND PILE LIFTING

Efficient and thorough vacuuming is the most important component of carpet maintenance.

The use of a heavy-duty vacuum cleaner with a power-driven brush or beater bar is recommended. Frequent cleaning of the filters and maintenance of the machine is of vital importance to ensure optimum performance at all times.

The frequency of vacuuming will depend on the traffic intensity, propensity of soiling and the type of equipment used. It is important that the soil, grit and dirt particles are thoroughly removed; if not, they will rapidly and irreparably damage the carpet fibres.

Vacuuming should be supplemented with a pile-lifting programme for cut-pile carpets as this will lift and open the pile, assisting with the removal of embedded soil. Care must be taken with this type of equipment as incorrect use can result in damage to the pile substrate, more specifically on loop-pile carpeting.

4 SPOT REMOVAL

Effective spot removal must be part of the maintenance programme. This should be done daily, in order that spots do not become permanent stains.

The correct techniques and cleaning agents should be used, and the person/s responsible for this function must be well trained.

Spot removal is done as follows:

1. Remove as much solid residue as possible with a blunt knife or spatula as soon as possible after the spill.
2. Blotup any spills or remaining liquid with absorbent plain white paper or cloth.
3. Use the recommended removal agent for the particular spill. Do not over-wet and blotup frequently, working from the outside of the spot towards the centre.
4. When using a new spot removal agent, always test on an inconspicuous area (under or behind a piece of furniture). Apply a few drops of the solution and rub gently with a clean white towel. If any colour is transferred to the towel, or a colour change occurs on the carpet, this spotting agent must not be used.
5. A detailed spot removal chart is given in Annex B.

5 SURFACE CLEANING

This type of cleaning supplements the vacuuming and spot cleaning procedures, but does not replace the deep restorative cleaning.

Again, the frequency is determined by the traffic and soiling intensity. The following methods are recommended:

1 SPRAY PAD CLEANING:

The pads of a rotary shampoo machine are pre-soaked with a special detergent solution, and the soiled area is pre-sprayed with the same solution. When the machine is run over the carpet surface the pads absorb the soil, emulsified and held in suspension by the detergent solution, from the carpet. It is important to replace the pads frequently to ensure proper removal of the soil, otherwise spreading of the soil will occur.

2 IMPREGNATED POWDER CLEANING (Such as Chemdry, Capture, Duo, Host etc.):

This is the preferred method for cut-piles and is easier for in-house staff to apply.

The powder is sprinkled over the surface by hand or by dispenser, then brushed manually, or mechanically, into the pile. After about 15 – 20 minutes, the powder, with the absorbed and loosened soil, can be removed by thorough vacuuming.

After approximately every third powder clean, a deep hot water extraction clean is recommended to remove any residual powder build-up in the carpet pile.

6 DEEP RESTORATIVE CLEANING

From time to time a deep clean will be necessary. We recommend the “Spray Extraction” process, also wrongly referred to as “Steam Cleaning”.

It is vital that the carpet is well vacuumed prior to this method of cleaning, as any sandy soil will turn to mud rendering it more difficult to extract. We also recommend that the pile is “lifted” before such a clean to enable better penetration of the cleaning agent. The correct cleaning agent must be used, preferably one that leaves no sticky residue. Over-wetting must be avoided; in this respect the correct and properly maintained equipment is vital.

- 1 Spots should be pre-treated before a deep clean.
- 2 If too much, or the incorrect detergent is used, a residue will be left in the carpet fibre, which will accelerate re-soiling. Never use a detergent that leaves a sticky residue after evaporation.
- 3 Never over-wet the carpet as this may cause extensive shrinkage or cellulosic browning and could lead to a musty smell or rotting.
- 4 The pH of the cleaning solution for wool should be between 5.5 and 7.00.
- 5 Chemicals and detergents should be effectively rinsed from the carpet.

Finally, it is imperative that deep-cleans be carried out by qualified commercial cleaners, and that the equipment be in good working condition.

7 TYPICAL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES

Although the following schedules are given as a guide, the traffic intensity, nature of the installation and the type of soiling will dictate whether these schedules should be accelerated, or even slightly reduced.

Location	Traffic Volume in area	Maintenance Procedure	Interval
Hotel Bedrooms	Light-med traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every month Every 6 months Every 18 months
Hotel Bedrooms	Med-heavy traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every month Every 3 months Every 12 months
Executive Offices	Light-med traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every month Every 6 months Every 18 months
Hotel Corridors	Med-heavy traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every month Every month Every 4 months
Hotel Lounges	Med-heavy traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every month Every 2 months Every 6 months

Restaurants	Heavy traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every 2 weeks Every month Every 4 months
Hotel Bars	Heavy traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every 2 weeks Every month Every 4 months
Ground Floor Foyers	Heavy traffic	Vacuumin g Spot removal Pile lifting Surface cleaning Deep restorative cleaning	Every day Every day Every 2 weeks Every month Every 4 months

TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method
Beer	Colourless to light yellow, slightly stiff. Hops, malt, alcohol, albumin, tannin.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply vinegar solution, blot frequently. 3. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Blood	Reddish when fresh, dries to dark. brown with irregular edge Albumin, fat, fibrin, iron.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply cool detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply cool ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry. 5. If stain remains, apply rust remover or oxalic acid solution. 6. Bleaching with 3% to 5% hydrogen peroxide may be necessary.
Butter and Margarine	Greasy, yellowish red, sometimes built-up. Milk, vegetable dye, corn oil, salt, preservatives, vegetable fats.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 2. Apply detergent solution, blot until dry. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Candle wax	Stiff and built-up Petroleum, animal fats and oils, basic dyes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scrape off as much as possible with a spatula or dull knife. 2. Apply absorbent paper and warm iron. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 4. Apply P O G, blot. 5. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot.
Chutney and tomato sauce	Reddish brown, absorbed or built-up. Tomatoes, salt, sugar, spices, tannin, vinegar, and onions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply cool detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 4. If stain remains, bleach with 3% to 5% hydrogen peroxide or with sodium perborate. 5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Chewing gum	Greyish or pink, rubbery, sticky, built-up. Chicle flavouring, sugar.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harden gum with an ice cube until it is brittle enough to scrape off with a dull knife or spatula. 2. Apply dry-cleaning solvent to remove remaining traces.
Chocolate	Brown with irregular edge, absorbed or built-up. Oil, grease, cocoa, butter, milk, sugar and colouring.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scrape off as much as possible with a spatula or dull knife. 2. Apply cool detergent solution, blot. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 5. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 6. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Cocktails	Colourless or light brown, absorbed. Alcohol, tannin, sugar.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 3. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

P O G = Paint, Oil and Grease remover.

TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS (continued)

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method.
Coffee	Brown with irregular edge, darkening with heat and age.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. Use enzyme detergent (if cream was present). 2. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry. <p>NB Ammonia will set stains on wool and silk, but may help in removal from other fabrics.</p>
Cough syrup	Usually absorbed with an irregular edge, sticky when wet, stiff when dry.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot 4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot unit dry.
Crayons	Built-up, sometimes shiny. Wax, grease, pigment, colouring matter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Egg	White or yellow (or both), built-up, coagulates with heat. Albumin, oil fats, colouring matter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blot up as much as possible. 2. Apply detergent solution, blot. 3. Apply cold ammonia solution, blot. 4. If stain remains, apply enzyme detergent. 5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Food colouring	Absorbed, irregular edge. Colouring matter, propylene, glycol.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot frequently. A dried stain will probably spread. 2. Repeat step 1 until colour is no longer transferred to towel. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Fruit juice	Light yellow or characteristic colour of fruit, absorbed and splotchy with irregular edge. Tannin, acids, pulps, sugar, colouring matter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry. 5. If stain remains, apply enzyme detergent, blot. 6. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Furniture stainer	Brownish or reddish, absorbed with irregular edge. Petroleum distillate, colouring matter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Rinse with water and blot until dry. <p>NB This stain is almost impossible to remove completely.</p>
Glue (water based)	Stiff and shiny, usually built-up. Starches, gelatine, albumins.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply water, blot. 2. Apply detergent solution, blot. 3. If stain remains, heat the detergent solution slightly and repeat step 2. 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

P O G = Paint, Oil and Grease remover.

TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS (continued)

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method
Glue (spirit based)	Sticky, usually built-up, black, attracts dirt.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply lacquer thinner, blot. 2. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot.
Grass	Green or brown smudges (or both). Tannin, acids, oil, chlorophyll.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply amyl acetate, if available, to remove chlorophyll, blot. 2. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 3. Rinse with water, blot. 4. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 5. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 6. Rinse with water, blot until dry. 7. Bleaching or professional stripping may be necessary.
Gravy	Brownish, absorbed, built-up. Meat extracts, starch, proteins, milk, flour, seasonings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 4. Apply enzyme solution, blot. 5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Greases	Greyish or brownish, absorbed or built-up. Oils, sometimes soils.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Alternate steps 1 and 2 until stain is removed. 4. If stain remains, apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 6. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 7. Rinse with water, blot until dry. <p>NB Bleaching or professional stripping may be necessary.</p>
Ice Cream	Absorbed and built-up, stiff when dry. Cream, milk, sugar, fruits, extracts, colouring matter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry. 6. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot.
Ink (ball point)	Can be any colour, usually blue, absorbed. Basic or soluble aniline dyes, insoluble organic solvents, oils, resins, gums, binding agents such as shellac, varnish or petroleum.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Apply amyl acetate if available, or acetone (except on acetate fibres). 5. If stain remains, apply rust remover or oxalic acid solution. <p>NB Bleaching or professional stripping may be necessary.</p>
Ink (Indian)	Absorbed, usually black. Pigment (carbon black) dispersed in water with a binder.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 6. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

P O G = Paint, Oil and Grease remover.

TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS (continued)

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method
Jam and jelly	Reddish or bluish, absorbed and built-up. Pulp of fruit, sugar, tannin, preservatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 3. Rinse with water, blot. 4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Lipstick	Red, pink, orange, soft and greasy. Pigment or dye in fat, waxes and oils.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scrape off excess with spatula or dull knife. 2. Apply P O G, making sure not to re-apply stain onto the textile floor covering. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 6. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 7. Rinse with water, blot until dry. <p>NB Try to avoid wet cleaning on wool. Use P O G and dry-cleaning solvents as long as possible.</p>
Merthiolate and mercurochrome	Orange red, absorbed. Eosin dye in alcohol solution.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Mildew	Greyish or brownish fungus with black spots.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply enzyme detergent. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot. 4. Apply solution of oxidizing bleach (chlorine or perborate). <p>Do not use chlorine bleach on wool or silk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Milk	Usually white, sometimes lighter in the centre with heavier build-up around the edges. Fats, albumins, water.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply cool detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry. 5. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 6. Rinse with water, blot until dry. 7. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot.
Mucilage	Either built-up or slightly absorbed, stiff with an irregular edge when dry. Albumins, animal proteins and gums.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply hot enzyme detergent, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Mud	Greyish, brownish, reddish, absorbed and built-up. Soil with grasses and oils Clay and iron.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brush or scrape off as much as possible. 2. Apply detergent solution, blot. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry. 5. If stain remains, apply P O G and dry-cleaning solvent alternately, blot until dry.

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TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS (continued)

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method
Mustard	Yellowish, absorbed or built-up. Mustard seed, vinegar, salt, turmeric, oils, spices, flavourings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 4. If stain remains, rust remover (oxalic acid solution) or bleaching may be necessary. <p>NB Do not use ammonia or alkalis.</p>
Nail varnish	Usually pink or red, stiff, shiny or built-up. Red dye or pigment in a liquid cellulose acetate base, solvent, plasticizer.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Apply amyl acetate if available, or nail polish remover. <p>PRETEST FIRST.</p>
Oils	Circular, elongated or cross-shaped, darkening with age. Petroleum distillate or vegetable oil polyglycerides, methyl silicate, preservatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Alternate dry-cleaning solvent and P O G, blotting frequently. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 6. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 7. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Paint (oil based)	Usually built-up and stiff. Pigments, drying oils, resins, gums, volatile solvents.	<p>NB Check label on paint for specific thinner or solvent.</p> <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Alternate steps 2 and 3 until stain is removed. 5. If stain persists, weigh down the stain with towels dampened with dry-cleaning solvent for several hours to loosen, blot with solvent. 6. Apply several drops of detergent solution and work into the stain, blot. 7. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 8. Alternate steps 2, 3 and 6 until stain is removed. 9. Rinse thoroughly with warm water.
Paint (water based)	Absorbed or built-up and stiff when dry. Water, latex, pigments, emulsifiers, preservatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Rinse with water, blot until dry. 4. Apply P O G, blot. 5. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot.
Rubber cement	White or clear, built-up, possibly sticky. Rubber (synthetic or natural) resin, solvent.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roll the glue off if it has hardened sufficiently. 2. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 3. Apply P O G, blot. 4. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 5. Apply detergent solution, blot. 6. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

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TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS (continued)

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method
Rust	Reddish-brown, absorbed or built-up. Oxides of iron.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moisten carpet fibre with water. 2. Apply rust remover or warm oxalic acid solution. 3. Allow to stand for 10 min to 15 min, blot. 4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Shoe polish	Usually black or brown, absorbed or built-up. Wax resins, solvents, dye, shellac, alcohol, tannin.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 2. Apply P O G, blot. 3. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 6. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry. 7. If stain persists, bleaching or professional stripping may be necessary.
Soft drinks	Colourless, yellowish, reddish or brownish, darkening with age. Tannin, sugar, vegetable colouring, flavouring, fruit extracts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply cold detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 3. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Soot	Black spots or smudges. Carbon, sulphur compounds, sometimes grease.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent, blot. 2. Apply detergent solution, blot. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Tar and asphalt	Black, shiny, built-up or absorbed, distinctive odour. Coal tar or petroleum, sulphur compounds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scrape off as much as possible with a spatula or dull knife. 2. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. 3. Apply P O G, blot. 4. Apply detergent solution, blot. 5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
Toothpaste	Whitish or greenish, absorbed or built-up. Soap, bleaching compound, flavouring, fluoride compound.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply detergent solution, blot. 2. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Urine	Yellowish or brown, darkening with age, absorbed. Urea, uric acid, ammonia, organic acids, pigments, cholesterol, albumins.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blot up as much as possible if still wet. 2. Apply detergent solution, blot. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry. 6. If stain remains, apply rust remover or oxalic acid solution. 7. Bleaching with 3% to 5% hydrogen peroxide or with sodium perborate might be necessary. <p>NB Urine stains might cause permanent dye removal from fibres.</p>

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TABLE 1 – REMOVAL METHODS FOR SPECIFIC STAINS (continued)

Source	Description/Contents of stain	Method
Vomit	Various colours, absorbed, built-up. Food, mucus, albumins, acids.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blot up as much as possible. 2. Apply enzyme detergent, blot. 3. Apply ammonia solution, blot. 4. Apply vinegar solution, blot. 5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
Wine	Reddish or purplish, absorbed. Alcohol, sugar, tannin, colouring matter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply lemon juice, salt or vinegar, blot. 2. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

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TABLE 2 – ACIDS USED IN SPOT REMOVAL

1	2	3	4	5
Acid	Fibres damaged by Cold concentrate	Reagent for	% to use	Precaution (*)
Acetic	Acetate Triacetate	Spot removal	Usually 5%, no stronger than 28%	Concentrate will burn the skin
Boric	Safe on most fibres and dyes	Spot removal, flame proofing		
Citric	Safe on most fibres and dyes	Metallic stains, brightens colour		
Formic	Acetate, Triacetate, Nylon	Paint remover, reducing agent	10%	Concentrate will burn the skin
General Formula	Safe on most fibres and dyes	Fruit and beverage stains	Use as made-up, or follow directions	Rinse well
Lactic	Acetate Triacetate	Water insoluble dye, metallic stains, ink, fruit and beverages	No stronger than 28%	
Oleic	Safe on most fibres and dyes	Dye and paint remover	Dry solvent, soluble	Produces a yellowish stain
Oxalic	Formation of crystals can cut fibres	Metallic stains, paint	1% to 3%	Has to be rinsed off well