

Care and Cleaning

Tips to Maintain Your Handmade Carpet

1. Vacuum your carpet regularly. Sand and grit work down to the base of the pile where abrasive action damages the wool and results in loss of pile. **ALWAYS VACUUM YOUR CARPET WITH THE SUCTION ATTACHMENT ONLY (NEVER USE THE BEATER BRUSH AND/OR INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH VACUUM) TO REMOVE SURFACE DIRT.** BEATER BRUSHES REMOVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF PILE WITH EACH USE AND CAN DESTROY FRINGE. THEY ALSO CAUSE THE PILE OF THE CARPET TO PILL LIKE A SWEATER. DO NOT VACUUM OVER THE FRINGE OF YOUR CARPET. We have also seen a couple of instances where a Roomba vacuum pulled on a carpet and caused shedding.
2. **SPILLS:** If food or liquids spill onto a carpet clean the spill as soon as possible. First, blot up any excess fluid. Use club soda or warm soapy water and a clean cloth or towel to remove the remainder. **NEVER USE A CLEANING AGENT** as these may affect the dyes and produce permanent color changes. Be sure that the top, undersurface of the carpet, and the pad are completely dry before relaying the carpet. Failure to do so can result in mold, mildew, and dry rot with significant damage.
3. **RED WINE:** If red wine or red dyed drink (kool-aid) is spilled use club soda immediately. Pour on stain and blot with a clean towel. Repeat (maybe 20 times) until all the red color is removed.
4. Animal urine is very damaging to a handmade rug. It is not only unpleasant to smell but can result in dry rot and permanent staining or de-colorization of the dyes. Whenever accidents occur, use club soda and/or clean water to thoroughly flush the area. Elevate the soiled area over a pan or bucket and run water through the carpet until clean. You may use a towel and a mild detergent like shampoo but be sure to rinse thoroughly. Make sure the carpet is completely dry before replacing it flat on the floor. Pets tend to go again repeatedly in the same places. When long-term use is discovered, consult a professional cleaner.
5. When should you have your carpet professionally cleaned? This depends upon the location and traffic patterns in your home. Obviously, higher traffic exposes carpets to more dirt. You can check the grit load in the carpet by placing a clean white piece of paper on the surface near a corner. Fold the corner over the piece of paper and whack the back of the carpet on top of the paper several times as hard as possible. Pull back the fold and examine the paper to ascertain the amount of grit and dirt that was knocked out of the carpet. If appreciable, the carpet should be professionally dusted and cleaned. When your carpet is

noticeably soiled, it is time to have it cleaned. Otherwise, have it cleaned every 5 years on average.

6. How should carpets be cleaned? Handmade carpets should NEVER be "dry cleaned" using powders, as this simply polishes the surface and leaves a large quantity of gritty residue. Handmade carpets should NEVER be "steam cleaned" as this will cause dyes to bleed and can shrink wool fibers. Handmade carpets should always be thoroughly DUSTED to remove dirt and grit prior to washing. This cannot be achieved by vacuum cleaning. If not properly done, the dirt residue hardens in the foundation of the rug and makes them stiff and brittle. Handmade carpets should always be thoroughly washed using an appropriately formulated detergent. They should be washed on both front and back surfaces. After washing, it is very important to thoroughly rinse the rug until all cleaner is removed. You should never simply surface shampoo your carpet. This will merely brighten the surface and leave the shampoo and dirt in the carpet. **TUFTED RUGS (Pendleton Classic Collection) CANNOT BE WET WASHED DUE TO THE LATEX USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION. SURFACE CLEANING ONLY.**
7. A pad designed for oriental carpets is important for the long life of your rug. Rug pads should be nonskid and promote air exchange between your carpet and the floor. The pad should be designed so that dirt can settle to the floor and not damage the back of the carpet. A pad is also important for safety to prevent accidental movement of the carpet, which can lead to falls.
8. Moth damage can occur anywhere but is usually under furniture in dark areas that are not regularly vacuumed. The only long-term effective moth proofing is zinc or magnesium fluorosilicate, which lasts until a rug is cleaned. Other moth treatments lose their effectiveness in a few months. Be sure that any of your carpets partially concealed by furniture are properly treated.
9. Your carpets should be rotated 180 degrees periodically to minimize wear from traffic patterns and to even out any sun fading.
10. Any carpet will fade if exposed to direct ultraviolet sunlight. Most modern windows are Low E and mostly eliminate this problem. Older windows may be coated with a UV blocking film to minimize this problem.

If you follow these suggestions, your carpet will look beautiful and wear well for many years.