

ADAM[®]

COMMERCIAL CARPETS

MAINTENANCE OF ADAM CONTRACT CARPETS (WOOL RICH)

The object of carpet maintenance is to preserve the appearance of the carpet at as high a level as possible throughout its useful life. A suitable maintenance programme should be planned for each installation and implemented as soon as the carpet is installed. A maintenance programme will consist of the following elements:

- ◆ Protection
- ◆ Regular vacuum cleaning
- ◆ Localised cleaning
- ◆ Periodic wet cleaning
- ◆ Spot cleaning

PROTECTION

Walk-off protection mats or other barrier matting should be placed at all entrances to the building in order to remove as much soil as possible from the shoe soles before the carpet is walked on. They should also be fitted around food and drink dispensers and at the interface between hard floor covering and carpet.

To be totally effective they must be of sufficient size to allow a number of steps before reaching the carpet and should be regularly changed for clean ones as soon as they become filled with soil.

REGULAR VACUUM CLEANING

Regular vacuum cleaning is essential for the correct maintenance of carpet. Not only does it remove soil particles which can damage the carpet pile and look unsightly but also agitates the pile and helps restore and preserve its appearance. Vacuum cleaning should be carried out at least once a day in traffic areas.

There are two main types of vacuum cleaner, those with suction only and those fitted with a rotating beater or pile brush. Whilst the former has a more gentle action and least disturbs the pile a vacuum cleaner fitted with a beater or brush is better for heavy traffic areas. A heavy duty upright cleaner is preferred.

Vacuum cleaners should be well maintained and emptied regularly if they are to operate efficiently. Carpets must always be thoroughly vacuum cleaned prior to any wet cleaning operation.

LOCALISED CLEANING

To improve the appearance of the carpet where heavier soiling takes place such as doorways, lift lobbies etc., various techniques may be used in these relatively small areas.

These are:-

- ◆ Application of a detergent foam which is worked into the surface with a cylindrical brush shampoo machine. The foam, containing suspended dirt particles can then be removed by wet vacuuming or left to dry to a powder and then dry vacuumed.
- ◆ A coarse powder, impregnated with solvents and detergent, is spread on an area of the carpet and then worked into the pile using a special brushing machine. After a suitable period of time in which the soil is loosened and absorbed into the powder, the latter is removed using a heavy-duty upright vacuum cleaner.

All these treatments are best carried out by cleaning professionals who have the necessary equipment and expertise.

WET CLEANING

This should be carried out by a professional carpet cleaner who will have suitable equipment. These can use a brush, foam application, foam application with vacuum extraction, or, hot water spray with vacuum extraction. This latter is now widely used and will remove deep seated soil without excess detergent residues building up in the carpet. It can be used with hot water alone to remove detergent residues.

Any detergents or shampoos used in wet cleaning should dry to a powdery residue. Products that dry to a stocky or oily residue should be avoided as, if traces remain in the carpet, they will cause accelerated re-soiling.

SPOT REMOVAL

Efficient spot cleaning is essential to good carpet maintenance and prompt treatment of the spillage will pay dividends as many dried in stains become very difficult, if not impossible, to remove. It is recommended that daily spot removal is carried out by a trained member of staff or professional cleaning contractor.

All cleaning agents should carry the Woolsafe Approved logo as these will not be alkaline, nor contain any bleaching or artificial brightening agents.

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