

# Maintenance recommendations for carpet and carpet tiles from CFS Carpets

## General

All carpets will eventually become soiled and will lose their pristine appearance long before they are worn out and need replacement. Regular maintenance will help to preserve the appearance and extend the life of the carpet. In the past carpet maintenance largely consisted of vacuuming with occasional shampooing to revive the appearance when this becomes unacceptable. Programmed maintenance has proved that regular attention to basic cleaning is far more beneficial in every way. In areas of extreme and heavy soiling, for example entrances and lobbies at the street door, restaurants (particularly serving hatches) and lifts, carpet requires particular attention to preserve its appearance. Mats and washable carpet runners assist in removing soil from these areas. It is necessary to clean doormats and runners regularly to enable them to accept more dirt. Failure to do this will result in them becoming saturated or excessively dirty and spreading the dirt onto the surrounding carpet. The wearing surfaces is comprised of tufts of fibres in a vertical position, at right angles to the floor surface. These are compressed by normal foot traffic and point loads. This can give rise to apparent discolouration of the pile, and in some cases causes an irregular patch known as 'pressure marking' to appear. The latter is a feature of a fine velvet pile and does not detract from the wearing qualities, nor is it regarded as a manufacturing or product fault. Pile distortion normally appears as a lighter shade than the surrounding carpet, as light reflection is greater from the side than from the end of the fibres.

**Maintenance** of the carpet and carpet tiles should be by periodic vacuuming with a machine including a revolving brush/beater bar. Frequency depends on soiling conditions, and varies from two or three times a day in areas of extremely heavy wear, to once a week for areas with little wear and soiling.

**Spillages** should be attended to immediately they happen as follows; Remove solids by scraping with blunt knife, and then blotting with a cloth or paper towel. Apply a cleaning solution and re-blot till dry. When using a solvent-based cleaner for spot cleaning of carpet or carpet tiles, use great care to ensure that the solvent does not penetrate the backing material as it may attack the tile backing or adhesive bond.

**Soiled Areas** Cleaning of soiled areas when they begin to show is essential. This can be done by a wet extraction system, the most commonly known method being 'steam cleaning'. This system is effective where isolated stains are involved but the whole carpet would normally have to be cleaned to avoid colour variation when cleaned areas are compared to areas not treated. Care should be taken to avoid saturating the carpet and causing shrinkage. The carpet should also be allowed to dry before re-use; this drying time varies from several hours to a day or more depending on humidity, operator skill and soil conditions.

**Dry Extraction** An alternative system of cleaning the carpet is by using a 'dry extraction' systems such as EnviroDri or Host, which employ a moist, absorbent compound impregnated with solvents for both water and oil based soil, which is brushed into the carpet with a machine designed for this purpose. The compound absorbs the dirt from the carpet pile and is afterwards vacuumed with a revolving brush/beater bar vacuum cleaner. The carpet remains dry and can be used during and immediately after cleaning. This system is particularly suitable for programmed maintenance of the carpet and can be carried out in areas of localised soiling without appearing noticeably different from the rest of the carpet.