

Clean Beat

FLOORCOVERING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. - 10/22

Cleaning Berber Carpet

Although it is a nice alternative to cut pile carpet, Berber carpet can be difficult to clean. Many people have found that after cleaning Berber carpet, the stains and dirt seem to return to the surface of the carpet. This is partly due to the loop pile construction, as it tends to dry slower. To achieve quicker dry times the technician should use more dry vacuum passes and increase air movement to mitigate any potential wicking issues. Even though it might seem difficult at first, Berber carpet can be cleaned effectively when the right techniques are applied.



Dry soil removal is a critical step in carpet cleaning, particularly when cleaning Berber carpets. You can do this by vacuuming the carpet thoroughly before applying any water or cleaning solution.

If you do not remove this loose soil first, it will resurface after you have cleaned it and the carpet begins to dry. Water evaporates from the carpet fibers by *capillary action*, and this is the process that creates *soil wicking*: The water evaporates from the surface of the carpet, but the soil cannot. When you are vacuuming the carpet, pay close attention to the areas where you switch directions (pivot areas), these will be the areas most prone to resurfacing soil.

Clean spills as quickly as possible to avoid letting the stain set in. When spot cleaning Berber carpet, it is important that you do not scrub the pile. This will cause the stain to set and will also cause damage to the texture. Instead, blot the liquid to remove as much of it as possible before it has a chance to set in.

For stains that have already set in on a synthetic fiber, you will need to spray the stained area with an oxidizer, i.e., Hydrogen Peroxide. Let the cleaner soak into the carpet for a few minutes. Once the cleaner has been allowed to soak, blot it with a cloth. Again, do not scrub as this will make the stain worse. When you don't see any more discoloration transfer to the cloth, place a clean cloth over the discoloration and add a weight overnight.

To maintain a fresh look, Berber carpets should be professionally cleaned twice a year so that stains are not allowed to set in.

The BIG Stuffed Dog

I was at a client's home in South Tampa working one day and the lady came in the room with the giant stuffed dog. She smiled at me, her eyes were already getting shiny. I could tell the dog had a special place in her heart, and there was more to the story, so I waited patiently for her to continue.

"My dad was an over-the-road truck driver and he was gone for weeks at a time." She paused, probably remembering those long trips when her dad was away. "One day after a long trip he asked if I would help him unload some things from the cab of the truck."

I could see the excitement in her eyes as she continued telling the story. *"I was probably six years old and always loved playing in his big truck. When I climbed up into the truck I saw this large stuffed dog strapped in the front passenger seat."*

She took a deep breath and continued. *"It was a constant reminder of my dad when he was gone. I would come home from school and wrap its floppy ears around me, it was like my dad was there, it even smelled like his truck."*

The lady's voice cracked as she finished her story and tears started flowing down her face. *"I can clean that,"* I said quickly, trying to comfort her. She gave me a watery smile and quietly whispered, *"Thank you."* **CB**



Quote of the month



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