

Cleaning Guide

General guide and instructions for cleaning IAC wall fabrics and carpets



1. General guide and instructions for cleaning IAC wall fabrics

1.1 Regular Cleaning

Weekly light vacuuming is desirable and greatly extends the life of the fabric. Call in professional cleaning services, or if you intend to do the job yourself, use only reputable brands of upholstery shampoo and follow maker's instructions exactly. Test shampoo solution on inconspicuous part of furniture. Never use soap, ammonia, bleach or other cleaners intended for use on hard surfaces. Do not over wet the fabric and avoid pressing liquids through the fabric.

1.2 Removing Stains

If something should get spilled or dropped on our decor fabric, the golden rule for removing the stain is speed. Most spots will vanish if treated immediately and are not allowed to dry in, so keep the necessary cleaning materials altogether in one convenient place.

First mop up any excess liquid with absorbent tissue (preferably white) or a clean cloth and scoop up dry solids with a spoon. Most stains can be treated with one of three cleaning liquids - dry cleaning fluid, upholstery shampoo or clean water. Use the cleaning method shown in the chart. Always work inwards from the edge of the stain to prevent spreading. Use small amounts of cleaning liquid at a time and blot between applications. Avoid pressing liquid through the fabric. Never rush or panic, work patiently and thoroughly. If the stain cannot be removed, get expert advice from a reputable dry cleaning organisation.

Caution: Dry cleaning fluids may be toxic or flammable. The usual precautions should be taken when handling these products.

| Stain | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Stain | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Beer | 1 | | | Beverages | 3 | 1 | |
| Blood | 4 | 1 | | Burn/scorch marks | 12 | 11 | |
| Butter | 2 | 1 | | Chewing gum | 5 | | |
| Chocolate | 1 | 2 | | Cola | 3 | 1 | |
| Cooking oils | 2 | 1 | | Cream | 1 | 2 | |
| Egg | 1 | | | Felt tip pen | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Fruit juice | 3 | 1 | | Furniture polish | 2 | 1 | |
| Gravy/sauces | 3 | 1 | | Ink (fountain pen) | 3 | 1 | |

| Stain | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Stain | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Ink (ball point) | 6 | 1 | | Lipstick | 2 | 1 | |
| Metal polish | 2 | 1 | | Milk | 3 | 1 | |
| Mustard | 1 | | | Nail polish | 7 | 2 | |
| Oil/grease | 2 | 1 | | Paint (emulsion) | 4 | 1 | |
| Paint (oil based) | 8 | 2 | 1 | Salad dressing | 1 | 2 | |
| Shoe polish | 2 | 1 | | Soot | 9 | 2 | |
| Urine (fresh stain) | 1 | | | Urine (old stain) | 3 | 1 | |
| Vomit | 3 | 1 | | Wine | 10 | 3 | |

Type of Treatment

1. Proprietary upholstery shampoo solution
2. Proprietary agents for removing greasy stains
3. Clean warm water
4. Cold water
5. Chewing gum remover (freezing agent)
6. Surgical alcohol
7. Nail polish remover (preferably Acetone)
8. Turpentine or white spirit
9. Vacuum
10. Proprietary absorbent powders
11. Hydrogen peroxide diluted to 1 volume
12. Scrape lightly with a coin

Always remove excess

2. General cleaning guide and specification for IAC carpeting

2.1 Vacuum Cleaning

Regular and thorough vacuum cleaning will prolong the life of the carpet considerably. Also the natural flocking which always occurs on new carpets must be removed. If the surplus pile fibres are stepped into the carpet the surface will get a dull matted appearance.

2.2 Shampooing

If the carpet has become very dirty it may be given a light refresher with one of the special carpet shampoos available. If the directions are followed carefully it is quite simple to use and gives a fine result. Any spots should be removed in advance. Avoid using too much water since this may cause damage to the carpet. 1001 carpet shampoo with Fibreshield is a suggested product.

On extremely dirty carpets, we recommend that you call upon a professional carpet cleaner to do the job.

After shampooing and drying the carpet needs to be thoroughly vacuum cleaned as it is very important that all shampoo is removed.

2.3 Dirt

Dirt may be placed under 4 categories:

1. Dry dirt (gravel, sand ashes, dust)
2. Water soluble dirt
3. Water insoluble dirt
4. Spots and other discolourations

2.3.1 Dry Dirt

In the long run the ordinary day-to-day deposits of dry dirt are most harmful to the carpet. Especially the large sand and gravel particles that are able to embed themselves in the pile and to cut fibres with their sharp edges when you walk on the carpet. On the other hand this type of dirt is very easily removed with thorough and frequent vacuum cleaning.

2.3.2 Water Soluble Dirt

This is mainly dirt picked up in the streets: a mixture of mud and refuse particles

containing sugar and starch. A light shampooing will easily remove this type of dirt.

2.3.3 Water Insoluble Dirt

This type of dirt consists of two main groups, the sparingly soluble and the more readily soluble dirt. The sparingly soluble dirt must be removed with a solvent (see our key to spot removal) whereas the more readily soluble dirt may be removed with a shampooing.

2.3.4 Spots and Other Discolourations

This group calls for an individual treatment. The best result is obtained if the spot is removed as quickly as possible, preferably while it is still wet.

When the nature of the spot has been determined please follow the instructions given in our key to spot removal. Always clean with a light hand in order not to damage the fibres. Once the spot has dried out the cleaning operation is much more complicated and time-consuming. A few obstinate spots, often tea or coffee, are very difficult to remove completely. However, they may be reduced to such a degree that the result is satisfactory. When the carpet is dry the area must be rubbed thoroughly with a cloth. Finally the carpet is vacuum cleaned or brushed carefully.

2.4 Stain Removal

Stain removal applicable for all carpets. Remove stains immediately. Most stains are easily removed with soapsuds with ammonia water. Greasy stains are removed with for instance benzine. For old and dried out stains use a solvent. For wet stains like coffee etc. absorb the liquid with a piece of terrycloth - sprinkle the stain with potato starch or salt and leave for 24 hours. After the stain has been removed the carpet is vacuum-cleaned or brushed carefully.

Note: Before going ahead with the removal of the stain it is highly recommended that you give the carpet a discolouration test with the cleaning fluid you intend to use.

Asphalt Tar and Oil

Remove with petroleum naphtha or benzine as soon as possible. Be gentle and use as little solvent as possible to avoid blotching. Dried out stains may be softened up with a little butter, then after a few hours the tar may be removed as described above.

Blood

Blood stains should immediately be washed off with cold water. Place a cloth soaked in cold water on dry stains. When softened the stain may be washed off with a nail brush and cold water.

Ink

Dab the stain with undiluted ammonia. The stain will bleach immediately, and then wash thoroughly with cold water.

Floor Polish

One of the most severe threats to your carpet, floor polish sticks the pile together and makes it lie down. Polish must be removed immediately with white spirit. If floor polish is left on the carpet for a longer period the pile will become tangled and twisted and it is impossible to repair the damage, even after a thorough cleaning.

Gravy

The stain is removed in two operations. First use a solvent (carbon tetrachloride, petroleum, naphtha, trichloroethylene, benzine etc.). Then rinse with cold water and perhaps a nail brush. If the carpet has a pile it should be folded so that the pile will be spread wide open enabling you to clean thoroughly in the full depth of the pile.

Cocoa and Chocolate Drinks

The fresh and moist stains can be removed up to 99 percent with a sponge and lukewarm water. A dried stain must be moistened with lukewarm water and rubbed with borax. One minute later the stain may be washed off with water.

Cellulose Glue

Readily removed with acetone. (Test for discolouration).

Chocolate

Remove as recommended for grease stains.

Grease, Oil, Butter etc.

Remove with carbon tetrachloride or benzine. Use sparingly and rub the stain with cotton wool until dry.

Cream

Wipe up spillage as fast as possible. If the stain is dry or stepped on it should be treated as a grease stain. If completely dry stain is moistened with lukewarm water and rubbed with borax. Then rinse with lukewarm water.

Mud

Leave until completely dry, then vacuum clean or brush out of the carpet.

Ice Cream

Wipe up spillage as fast as possible. If the stain is dry or stepped on it should be treated as a grease stain. If completely dry, moisten the stain with lukewarm water and rub with borax. Then rinse with lukewarm water.

Coffee or Tea

Spillage should be wiped off with a sponge or cloth. Then clean in the direction of the weave with a soft nail brush dipped in lukewarm detergent or soapsuds. Dried spots are rubbed with glycerine and left overnight before cleaning.

Note: Old coffee and tea spots should be cleaned by an expert.

Ball Pen Ink

Remove with alcohol. This can take some time but the stain is removable.

Margarine

Follow instructions for grease stains.

Mayonnaise

First remove like a grease stain. When the stain is dry, the yolk may be removed with cold water.

Milk

Wipe off immediately. If visible after the stain has dried up, moisten with lukewarm water, rub with borax and rinse with water.

Vomit

Remove with ammonia water in a proportion of 1:7 parts of water. Any odour may be removed with a deodoriser as for example Rodalon or Germidin.

Rust

Use a rust remover and follow instructions carefully. Rinse with water.

Stains from Pickle, Beetroot and Red Fruit Juices

Dissolve one teaspoon of sodium dithionite in a cup of lukewarm water. Dab the spot and rinse.

Red Wine

Moist stains are washed off with cold water and a sponge (see the preliminary remarks). Wipe off surplus moisture with a dry cloth. Dried spots should be rubbed with glycerine and left for a few hours, then clean with a sulphated carpet cleaner or a detergent.

Butter

Follow instructions for grease stains.

Candle Wax

Carefully scrape off as much as possible with a knife. Then clean as mentioned under grease stains.

Jam

Remove with lukewarm water. Leftover red colouring may be removed with a sodium dithionite solution (see Beetroot/Pickle section).

Wines

Such as sherry, port etc. Wash off the stain with lukewarm water. If necessary add a sulphated carpet cleaner or detergent to the water.

2.4 Compression and Recovery Behaviour

Meraklon Velour was subjected to a vigorous series of tests according to BS 4098. Using an increasing pound pressure per square inch to a maximum of 12 pounds per square inch. Meraklon Velour showed the following excellent results:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Mean thickness at 0.25 lb/in ² | 0.367" |
| Compression (loss of thickness) at 12 lb/sq. in. | 0.153" |
| Percentage thickness recovery of cessation of impact loading measured at 0.25 lb/in ² | 86.9% |
| Percentage compression recovery | 68.4% |

2.6 Static Loading

Tested according to BS 4939 to determine the recovery from indentation caused by desks, chairs, etc. left on the same spot. Meraklon Velour showed its resilience by the following results:

| | Thickness (mm) | Original Thickness (%) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Thickness immediately after loading | 6.2 | 65 |
| After 1 hour recovery | 7.8 | 82 |
| After 24 hours recovery | 8.5 | 89 |

2.7 Dimensional Stability

Meraklon Velour was subjected to a stringent relative humidity test based on BS 4682 Part 2. Even after sudden changes from 35% RH to 85% RH and back the results had to be calculated to two decimal places of a percentage before the minutest change was recorded.

Meraklon polypropylene is insensitive to humidity variation which is exemplified in the above outstanding dimensional stability test result.

3.1 Colourfastness to Light

On eight of the colours tested, according to BS 1006, the laboratory abandoned the test to show the change in colour giving these the highest rating of 7. The other four colours showed a marginal change and were rated 6-7.

3.2 Colourfastness to Shampoo

Meraklon Velour was tested according to BS 4334 SDC. Again five colours were given the highest rating of 5, no change at all, and the remainder only a minimal change at 4-5.

3.3 Colourfastness in Water

This test was carried out in accordance with the standards of the Society of Dyers and Cleaners and assessment against the grey scale revealed five colours were rated the maximum 5, no change at all, and the remainder showing an infinitesimal change rated 4-5.

4.1 Static Electricity

Body voltage was built up at 2 paces per second over a hundred paces and at a conditioning of 25% R.H. at 21°C (70°F). The table below covers the most common shoes used everyday with the corresponding results.

| Shoes | Volts |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Rubber soled | -470 |
| Leather soled and heeled | ±130 |
| Polyurethane soled and heeled | -305 |
| PVC soled and heeled | -250 |

Even at this low humidity the figures showing the voltage are considerably less than 2000 volts generally accepted as being the threshold of human sensitivity. Under normal conditions Meraklon Velour is anti static.

5.1 Thermal Insulation

This was measured in terms of thermal resistance in BS4745. The results were:
Togs 1.77 or $\text{ft}^2 \text{hr}^\circ\text{F}/\text{Btu}$ 1.01

The thermal conductance or U value was measured as:
 $\text{Btu}/\text{ft}^2 \text{hr}^\circ\text{F} = 0.998$

6.1 Sound Absorption

Tested in accordance with BS 3638 under the precisely controlled conditions over the centre frequency band.

Absorption coefficients were obtained giving an average noise reduction coefficient of 0.39 over the centre frequency 250-2000.

6.2 Reduction in Sound Transmission

Meraklon Velour was laid directly on 6" thick concrete slabs in accordance with BS 2750 and the reduction in impact sound transmission was recorded. The results showed an average reduction over bands tested of 44 dB. A significant reduction when considering sound transmission in offices and other buildings, particularly multi-storey.

7.1 Flammability

Meraklon Velour was subjected to Hot Metal Nut method test for (BS 4790) and qualified as having low radius effects of ignition.

