

Domestic Cleaning and Maintenance Guide for Westex Carpets

The following hints on carpet maintenance will add considerably to the carpet's life.

Vacuuming

Weekly vacuuming is recommended so that soil does not become embedded in the pile causing accelerated wear by grinding at the base of the tufts.

There are three types of vacuum cleaners: plain suction, beater bar, and revolving bristle strip. All are efficient for regular cleaning, particularly dense pile carpet.

The last stroke of the vacuum cleaner should be in the pile direction. It is important to follow the vacuum manufacturer's instructions for the best results.

Cleaning

If you have taken care to vacuum your carpet regularly and remove spills, you may not need to clean your carpet for a year or more, even if it is a light colour. However, when the carpet does start to look soiled, you can either have it professionally cleaned or do it yourself. If you decide to clean the carpet yourself, make sure you use a good quality cleaning agent and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions. No matter how careful one is, there is usually a small residue left on the pile after drying and the residue from a poor quality cleaning agent accelerates soiling.

Wet shampoo

It is important to use a neutral shampoo on wool carpets – certainly not one that is alkaline, never use household detergents, and don't use shampoos which smell of ammonia. To check proprietary carpet shampoos, leave a bit in a saucer overnight, pour off excess and allow to dry to see if it leaves a sticky residue to which house dust could cling.

If you use a shampooing machine, follow the instructions carefully. Remove the furniture from the room, if possible, and vacuum thoroughly before shampooing. Allow to dry overnight before vacuuming and putting the furniture back in place. It's important not to allow the carpet to get too wet in case the pile and backing become distorted.

Absorbent powder

There is a range of cleaning powders available which are either solvent-saturated or detergent-saturated. Check the manufacturer's instructions.

After vacuuming, the powder is sprinkled liberally on the carpet, brushed into the pile and then vacuumed out.

It is not necessary to remove all the powder from the pile as it can minimise further soiling. The powder method is an easy way of freshening up a carpet. It also distorts the pile less and, because the carpet is not wetted, the room is ready for re-use sooner.

Aerosol foam shampoo

For light cleaning of small areas, aerosol foam shampoos can be used. It is advisable to test the shampoo first for sticky residue which may attract dust. Foam is usually sprayed sparingly on to the carpet and worked into the pile with a moistened sponge or brush.

Vacuum when the carpet is dry. In all cases, check the manufacturer's directions.

Spray injection

With this method, sometimes incorrectly referred to as "steam cleaning", the carpet pile can be injected with a hot water and detergent solution under pressure so that soil is suspended in the water which is extracted almost at once by a high suction, wet vacuum system.

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This method is particularly useful for very dirty carpets as it removes deep-sealed dirt, but it may not clean the surface as well as other methods. It is also useful for removing excess detergents from successive wet shampoos – and together the two methods can restore a very dirty, flattened carpet. Although a machine can be rented, it is best to have this type of cleaning done by a professional cleaner because care needs to be taken not to over-wet the carpet and thus distort the pile and backing.

If you do use a rented machine, it is important to follow directions and not exceed the concentrations of additives or the water temperature recommended by the chemical/detergent manufacturer.

Stain Removal Guide

STAIN	CLEANING ADVICE
Alkyd paint	Absorb immediately with a cloth damped with turpentine. Old stains cannot be removed.
Asphalt	Soften the stain with margarine for approx. 12 hours. Then remove the stain with as little benzene as possible.
Ball pen	Dab with a cloth damped with spirit.
Beer	Damp the stain with a stain remover. Dry with water and a dry cloth.
Beetroot juice	Absorb immediately as much as possible of the stain with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Keep on until no more colour can be removed. In case of dried stains these are first softened with a stain remover after which the stain is washed off with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Remaining colour residues are bleached with HelpMate or 3% peroxide
Blood	Absorb immediately and dab with a cloth rinsed in water, adding 2 teaspoons salt per litre water.
Butter	Scrape off or absorb as much as possible. Dab carefully with a cloth damped with kerosene. The treated area can bulge for a while if the carpet is not fully adhered.
Cellulose varnish	Dab with a cloth damped with acetone.
Chewing gum	Put a bag with ice on the stain to harden it. Scrape off as much as possible of the stain. Dab with a cloth damped with gasoline.
Chocolate and chocolate ice-cream	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain until you cannot remove any more colour. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet is not fully adhered.
Chocolate, drinks	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain until you cannot remove more colour. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet is not fully adhered.
Cocoa and chocolate drinks	Damp a clean cloth with kerosene and dab the stain until no more colour can be removed. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet has not been fully adhered.
Coffee	Absorb immediately as much as possible with kitchen paper. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Keep on until no more colour can be removed. In case of dried coffee stains these are first to be softened with a stain remover after which the stain is washed off with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Remaining colour residues can be bleached with HelpMate.
Cola	Absorb immediately as much as possible of the stain with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Keep on till you cannot remove more colour. Remaining colour residues can be bleached with HelpMate or 3% peroxide

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Cooking oil	Scrape off or absorb as much as possible. Dab carefully with a cloth damped with kerosene. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet has not been fully adhered.
Crayon	Damp a cloth with spirit and dab the stain.
Cream	Scrape off or absorb as much as possible. Dab carefully with a cloth damped with kerosene. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet is not fully adhered.
Dessert wine	Absorb immediately as much of the stain as possible with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water.
Egg	Dry as much as possible. Damp the stain with a stain remover and dab with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water with a little ammonia added. Use ½ dl. 8% ammonia for 2 ½ litres of water. Dab with clean water and after that with dry cloths.
Faeces	Damp the stain with equal portions water and domestic vinegar. After 10 minutes dab with humid and dry cloths by turns. Dab with water diluted with a disinfectant e.g. Rodalon
Fruit juice	Absorb immediately as much as possible of the stain with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water.
Fungicide	If the fungicide is water-based the stain is to be cleaned with a cloth slightly rinsed with water. If the fungicide is alcohol-based the stain is cleaned with a cloth damped with household alcohol.
Grass	See coffee.
Gravy	Scrape off or absorb as much as possible. Dab carefully with a cloth damped with kerosene.
Grease	Scrape off or absorb as much as possible. Dab carefully with a cloth damped with kerosene. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet is not fully adhered.
Ice	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain until no more colour can be removed.
Ink	On synthetic carpets absorb immediately with a cloth damped with 8% undiluted ammonia water. On carpets containing wool dab with a cloth damped with water.
Juice	Absorb immediately as much as possible of the stain with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water.
Ketchup	Absorb immediately as much of the stain as possible with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water.
Lipstick	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain until no more colour can be removed. The treated area can bulge for a short while if the carpet has not been fully adhered.
Liqueur	Damp the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water and absorb with a cloth.
Lubricating oil	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain immediately until no more colour can be removed.
Mascara	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain. The treated area can for a short while bulge if the carpet has not been fully adhered. If there is still a remaining colour residue it is possible to bleach the stain with HelpMate or 3% peroxide.
Milk	Absorb as much as possible. Damp the stain with a stain remover and dab with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water with ammonia added to it. Use ½ dl. 8% ammonia to 2½ l water. Dab with clean water and after this with dry cloths.
Motor oil	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain immediately fill no more colour can be removed.
Nail polish	Dab with a cloth damped with acetone.
Oil - black lubricating oil	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain immediately until no more colour can be removed.

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Paint	See alkaloid or plastic paint.
Paraffin	Remove as much as possible e.g. with a blunt knife. Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab.
Pen for Indian ink on water base	Damp a cloth with spirit and dab the stain. Pen for Indian ink on spirit base Absorb immediately as much of the stain as possible with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then clean off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Keep on until no more colour can be removed. Remaining colour residues can be bleached with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Red wine	Absorb immediately as much as possible with kitchen paper. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Keep on until no more colour can be removed. In case of dried stains these are first softened with a stain remover after which the stain is washed off with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Remaining colour residues are best bleached with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Resin	Dab carefully with a mixture of equal parts of turpentine and spirit.
Rust	Damp the stain with a stain remover and leave for a couple of hours. Dab with a dry cloth and dab with clean water.
Shoe polish	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain. In case of a colour residue it is possible to bleach with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Soft Drinks	Absorb immediately as much as possible of the stain with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Absorb immediately as much as possible of the stain with kitchen paper or a dry cloth. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Remaining colour residues can be bleached with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Soot	Damp a cloth with kerosene and dab the stain. If there are still colour residues left it is possible to bleach with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Street dirt	Leave the stain dry and vacuum-clean the carpet.
Tar	Soften the stain with margarine for 12 hours. Then remove the stain with as little gasoline as possible.
Tea	Absorb as much as possible with kitchen paper. Then wash off the stain with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Keep on until no more colour can be removed. In case of dried in stains these are first softened with a stain remover after which the stain is washed off with a cloth rinsed in lukewarm water. Remaining colour residues can be bleached with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Urine	Damp the stain with equal parts of water and vinegar. After 10 minutes dab by turns with humid and dry cloths. Dab with water with a disinfectant added, e.g. Rodalon. Follow instructions as to how much to use. Remaining colour residues can be bleached with HelpMate or possibly 3% peroxide.
Vomit	Damp the stain with equal parts of water and vinegar. After 10 minutes dab alternately with humid and dry cloths. Dab with water with a disinfectant. e.g. Rodalon
Wax polish	Clean the stain with a cloth damped with turpentine. The pile will paste if left too long.
White wine	See red wine.
Wine	See red wine or liqueur
Wood preservatives	Absorb immediately with a cloth damped with turpentine.