

Domestic Cleaning and Maintenance Guide **100% wool or 80% Wool 20% Nylon**

Helping to ensure you get the maximum performance and enjoyment from your Westex carpet, please read the following guide for looking after your carpet in your home.

A good programme of regular cleaning and maintenance extends the life and original appearance of your carpet

1. Vacuum Cleaning.

For all wool carpets produced by Westex, both loop and cut pile, we recommend and upright vacuum with a beater bar. For maximum benefits and effectiveness use a vacuum cleaner with adjustable height and suction settings and rotating brushes that will loosen deep rooted dirt. The suction of all vacuum cleaners should be sufficient so that it can get through to the backing and pick up any dust and dirt settled there. There should be a large closed filter and filter system, so the dust doesn't re-enter the room. Whichever model of vacuum cleaner you decide upon it should be regularly serviced. Keep the suction hose and attachments free from foreign bodies and ensure that these do not become blocked, as this could reduce the suction. Examine the suction head for rough, sharp edges or bent metal which could damage the carpet.

High traffic areas such as corridors, stairs and entrance halls should be vacuumed daily. The whole carpet should be vacuumed a minimum of twice a week. In this way dirt lying on the surface will be removed avoiding penetration further into the pile. Equally important is dirt already lying deep in the pile is removed; however, this is not always so easy and very expensive. Surface dirt can be removed while the vacuum cleaner is kept in the direction of the pile for a long time and then the opposite way. Repeat as necessary. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions with regard to machine bag and filter change and maintenance to ensure maximum possible suction at all times. If you require any further information on the suitability or selection of the appliance, please consult the appliance retailers direct.

2. Deep Cleaning.

Daily vacuuming is the most important step for carpet cleaning; however, deeper extraction cleaning takes care of removing tough, stubborn and deep lying dirt.

We recommend cleaning products that are recognised by WoolSafe®. WoolSafe® is an active worldwide organisation that tests products for the professional and domestic cleaning and maintenance of carpets. By passing all the WoolSafe® test requirements manufacturers can display a certificate and the WoolSafe® logo on their packaging.

We recommend a dry or wet extraction clean every 12-18 months as a minimum, every two years as a standard and certainly before dirt becomes visible. You should use a recognised professional carpet cleaning company to undertake the work. Wool requires special care. Excessive rubbing and high temperatures on the wool fibers should absolutely be avoided. Wool suffers if bleach or alkaline products are used and should only be treated with neutral cleaning agents with a pH value between 5 and 8. When using wet cleaning methods wool must be dried quickly to prevent browning or yellowing.

Do not wait until dirt is visible on the carpet. If the carpet is already heavily and excessively soiled cleaning is all the more difficult and expensive and as a result, its life is considerably reduced. Never use products intended for another purpose, such as washing- up liquid, soap and household cleaners. Even if the initial result of cleaning appears good, problems can occur rapidly, including quick re-soiling, bleeding of colour and shade of the carpet fibers, as well as the backing.

3. Tips for decreasing soiling.

a) Stain Resist

Westex carpets are impregnated with a protective substance called Stain Resist to prevent rapid soiling. Although this treatment is already advantageous, it doesn't offer 100% protection. Due to the treatment becoming worn over time by mechanical wear and tear from walking on it. Stains and soiling should be removed as soon as they occur.

b) Doormats

We recommended that doormats are laid at every entrance to the house, as these hold lots of the coarse dirt and will minimise soiling of your carpet. A doormat should be large enough to remove a generous amount of dirt from the outside which may be on the soles of your shoes. A doormat should be beaten out and cleaned at regular intervals, thus keeping the ability to take dirt in.

4. The appearance of your carpet.

Shading

Shading involves certain areas in soft carpets appearing lighter or darker than the surrounding areas. This is only an optical effect, which is caused by the different directions of the fibers and becomes evident in different light conditions. In traffic areas, or where the floor is uneven, such shading may also appear more intense. It does not indicate a fault in the carpet itself.

Changes to colour

The colour of a carpet can change for various reasons. Most usually changes of colour occur due to 'tracking', where the treading down of the fibers refracts the light differently and an optical difference in colour occurs. A thorough professional clean will restore the appearance of your carpet and revive the colour, provided that the dye content within the fibers has not decreased. UV light both artificial and natural will affect the colour of the carpet due to the natural properties of wool.

Soiling caused by draughts

At the edge of the carpet near walls, skirting boards, doorways and ventilation systems, heavy soiling can often appear as dark grey streaks. This streaking is formed by dust particles carried in the air and held by the carpet fibers that act like a filter.

Loss of fibers

When a carpet is newly-laid, some short fibers have a tendency to be released. With wool these fibers build up considerably, although they weigh very little. These appear for the most part in the first few weeks and mainly with cut pile carpets. The fibers are visible as fluff on the surface of the carpet. This is a normal phenomenon and shouldn't be worried about, as it lessens. Vacuum your carpet more regularly in the first few months and change the dust bag or empty the dust containment unit more frequently.

5. Stain treatment

Stains in carpets should always be treated immediately. The earlier you fight the stain, the easier the removal.

- Absorb liquids immediately with an absorbent cloth such as kitchen paper, toilet paper, cotton towel, etc. and dab, not rub.
- Solid substances (e.g. yogurt or similar) remove with a spoon or the back of a knife.
- Identify the stain, in order to select the correct treatment.
- Always work the stain from the outside inwards.
- Dab stains, NEVER rub.
- Always test the cleaner/stain remover in an inconspicuous area (even better on a carpet sample of offcut), never directly on the stain
- Take care when using solvents. Put on a cloth first and not directly onto the carpet.
- Ensure there is sufficient fresh air supply.
- Always thoroughly dab away the solvent.
- Dab the area treated area dry or if possible, dry use a hairdryer on cool and groom the carpet with a soft brush to realign the pile.

The recommended stain removal suggestions contain the methods in the order in which the treatments should be attempted.

Easy stains: relatively easy to remove by the recommended methods.

Difficult stains: harder to remove and require repeated attempts using stronger stain removers. With some stains it is probably impossible to fully remove them. In this case, help from professional carpet cleaners is required.

6. Treatment methods

1. Dab stains away using white kitchen towel.
2. Dab with clean water and blot dry.
3. Blot with diluted WoolSafe® approved carpet shampoo.
4. Use WoolSafe® approved spot stain remover.
5. Use WoolSafe® approved pet stain remover.
6. Chewing gum remover (solvent or frozen).
7. Acetone without oils..
8. Surgical Spirits / rubbing alcohol
9. Call a WoolSafe® professional carpet cleaner.

Easy stains

	1st Step	2nd Step	3rd Step		1st Step	2nd Step	3rd Step
Blood	2	5	9	Gravy / sauce	4	9	
Butter	4	9		Metal polish	4	9	
Chewing gum	6	9	0	Mustard	4	9	
Chocolate/cocoa	4	9		Oil / fat	4	9	
Cola	4	9		Paint water	2	3	9

				based			
Cream	4	9		Shoe polish	5	9	
Egg	5	9		Tea	4	9	
Fruit juice	4	9		Urine (fresh)	5	2	9

Difficult stains

	1st Step	2nd Step	3rd Step		1st Step	2nd Step	3rd Step
Soft Drinks	4	9		Milk	5	9	
Bleach	9			Nail varnish	7	9	
Radiator fluid	9			Oil-based paints	4	9	
Coffee	4	9		Rust	9		
Red wine	4	9		Soot	9		
Felt-tip pen	4	9		Tar (Asphalt)	8	9	
Glue/adhesive (plastic base)	7	9		Urine (old)	9		
Ink	2	3	9	Vomit	5	9	
Ball-point pen	9	9					
Lipstick	4	9					

Please note, that the aforementioned cleaning methods are not guaranteed. The methods are recommended and should be tested on a sample or in an inconspicuous place. If you are in any doubt, please contact your local cleaning expert.

Please view our website for further information or contact us.