Woven Area Rugs Care & Maintenance

The regular application of proper care and maintenance will help to prolong the life and appearance of Tarkett Woven Area Rugs.

- Limit exposure to contaminants by placing walk-off mats at all exterior entrances. The walk-off material can help trap excessive soil, sand, grit and other contaminants such as asphalt oils that would otherwise be tracked into the interior.
- Vacuum the rug regularly. Do not wait until soil and contaminants are visible. Traffic on the rug will cause soil particles to move deeper into the pile, thus making removal of the contaminants more difficult and creating the potential for damage to the face fibers. A vacuum featuring a beater bar/brush adjustable for height and certified as described below should be used. Exercise care when vacuuming at the edges to avoid damaging the rug through improper mechanical engagement of the edge with the spinning beater bar/brush mechanism. Effective and damage-free vacuuming at the edges can be performed by moving the vacuum towards the edge in the reverse direction only. Beginning approximately one foot from the edge, pull the vacuum slowly off the rug. This technique can also be performed at an angle to the edge thus covering more of the rug in a single pass. The body of the rug can be vacuumed in a normal forward and reverse fashion.
- Rotate the rug periodically to allow foot traffic to be more evenly distributed thus providing a more uniform overall appearance.
- The use of a proper pad underneath the rug at all times will prevent the rug from sliding out of place. The pad will also provide comfort underfoot as well as prevent damage to certain types of floors that can result from direct contact with the back of the area rug.
- Deep cleaning via hot water extraction should be performed periodically in order to remove oily and/or sticky contaminants that cannot be removed by dry vacuuming. Care should be taken to avoid over wetting the rug and drying times afterward should be accelerated through the use of a fan or fans to blow air across the surface of the rug.

CLEANING EQUIPMENT & CHEMISTRIES

Cleaning equipment and chemistry should be selected from those products certified under the Carpet & Rug Institute Seal of Approval testing programs. The complete and current listing of these products may be found at www.carpet-rug.org. All of the cleaning agents certified under the Seal of Approval program have been tested for cleaning efficacy, proper pH levels, lack of optical brighteners, and neutral re-soil properties. It is of particular importance to choose cleaning chemistries that do not leave sticky residues that cause accelerated soiling.

COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE AREA RUG MAINTENANCE

- Walk-off Material at Entrances and Transition Areas
- Frequent Dry Vacuuming
- Prompt Attention to Spots and Spills
- Periodic Hot Water Extraction for Deep Cleaning
- If desired, interim cleaning methods such as absorbent compound and encapsulation may be used to help extend the periods between hot water extractions

SPILL REMOVAL

Spills may require a cleaning solution to remove.

- As soon as a spill occurs, use a portable extractor to flush out and remove the liquid.
- If a portable extractor is not available, blot the spill with paper or cloth towels.
- Place several layers of towels over the spill and apply pressure until all of the excess liquid has been removed.

SPOT REMOVAL

Some spots may be more difficult to remove and may require aggressive spotting solutions. The first step in removing a spot is to determine if it is water-soluble or oil-based. This will help in the selection of a cleaning solution. An application of water will help to make this determination. Water-soluble spots will transfer to an absorbent towel; oil-based spots will not.

- For water-based spots, continue rinsing with water and blotting as long as transfer to the towel continues. Do not over wet the rug. Apply water as a mist from a spray bottle. Dampen but do not soak the pile. A cleaning agent may not be necessary if water continues to remove the spot. If a cleaning agent is needed, apply an approved spot lifter to the area. Dampen but do not soak the pile with the cleaning agent. Allow the cleaning agent to sit for five minutes or as recommended by the manufacturer. Then, apply water with a spray bottle and blot with a towel until all detergent residue has been removed. Repeat this process as necessary to completely remove the spot.
- For oil-based spots, blot to remove excess liquid, then apply a solvent-based cleaning agent to a towel and apply to the spot. Do not apply the cleaning agent directly to the surface as this may cause the spot to spread. Work from the outer edges of the spot towards the center. Continue to reapply solution in this manner until the spot is completely removed. Then, apply water with a spray bottle and blot with a towel until all residue of the solvent-based cleaning agent has been removed.
- For spots of known origin, i.e., ketchup, red wine, etc., comprehensive stain removal guides for specific staining agents can be found at www.bridgepoint.com and www.proschoice.com. Following the removal of the spot as directed by the guides, the affected area must be cleaned with an approved general cleaning solution to remove any residues from specialty spotting chemicals or other agents that were used as directed by the guides. Failure to remove these residues may result in accelerated soiling.

HOT WATER EXTRACTION

- Thoroughly vacuum the rug to remove dry soil.
- Fill the rinse tank with clean water only.
- Apply the cleaning solution to the rug as a pre-spray. Dampen but do not soak the pile.
- Agitate the face of the rug with a hand held soft bristle brush.
- Allow the agitated solution to dwell for 5 to 10 minutes or as recommended by the manufacturer of the cleaning agent. In any case, do not allow the cleaning solution to dry before proceeding to the next step.
- Extract thoroughly to rinse and remove the cleaning agent and suspended soil.
- Continue to rinse and extract until the recovery water runs clear.
- Finish with dry passes (suction only) to remove as much moisture as possible.
- Place a fan or fans to direct moving air across the surface of the rug to expedite drying time. Allow the rug to dry in both face up and face down position. Continue the drying process until both the front and back are dry to the touch.
- Do not allow traffic on the rug until dry.

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