

## General cleaning & maintenance guidelines

This information leaflet is intended to provide general guidelines on the care and maintenance methods suitable for Brintons carpets. We would suggest that a care and maintenance programme is put in place immediately after the carpet has been installed. The responsibility should be given to experienced personnel trained in the use of cleaning machines and who would be capable of recommending the frequency of the various cleaning operations.

### Soil prevention and use of barrier matting

One of the most effective means of soil prevention is to fit barrier matting at entrance points and also at other potential soiling/spillage areas, e.g. exit from kitchen, near vending machines. The first line of defence at entrances is the use of heavy-duty matting fitted in a well outside the building or immediately in the doorway. This matting would normally consist of removable metal scraper bars or grills with textile inserts and are designed to retain large particles of soil and water. A lighter duty, all textile mat designed to retain moisture and smaller particles of dirt is an effective second line of defence fitted close to the heavy duty matting or loose laid in high traffic areas. Barrier mats require frequent cleaning to ensure that they do not become overloaded with soil and then transfer this onto the carpet they are protecting.

### Vacuuming recommendations

The single most important care and maintenance procedure is thorough vacuuming with a suitable machine. Brintons recommend the use of upright vacuum cleaners, which incorporate a brushing action to help lift the pile as well as remove damaging grit and dust from within the tufts. Some cylinder vacuum cleaners also have a power head, which contains an electrically driven brush and these are also suitable.

Suction only cylinder machines generally only remove surface litter and do not give the pile the benefit of a brushing action. In order to ensure optimum efficiency, machines should be kept in good operating order and used on the correct settings.

### Spillage & Spot Removal

Spillages are more easily removed if tackled immediately, using a blotting/dabbing action or even better if available, a wet suction vacuum cleaner. In practice, it is often difficult to deal with spillages immediately, but a programme to remove stains/spillages on a frequent basis is recommended as this will extend the interval between the main cleaning operations.

# Brintons

Useful items to keep in stock for emergency use are:

- Proprietary shampoo solution such as one of those given in the Woolsafe approved list
- Stain removing spray for grease or oil spots
- Wet suction vacuum cleaner to remove wet spillages This can also be used to rinse spot cleaning chemicals from the carpet to avoid the possibility of re-soiling
- Absorbent cloth or tissue
- Choice Of Chemicals
- For wool-rich carpets we would recommend the use of cleaning chemicals, which have been approved by the WOOLSAFE Organisation.

Contact [www.woolsafe.org](http://www.woolsafe.org) on-line for further information

## Interim Cleaning Methods

### Absorbent Powder

The system uses impregnated compound which is spread over the surface of the carpet and then brushed into the pile using a machine with cylindrically rotating brushes. The soil laden compound is then vacuumed up, when dry, using a good quality commercial vacuum cleaner. The compound is easy to use, and the carpet can be walked upon immediately after the treatment.

### Dri- Foam

A low foam crystallising shampoo solution is fed from a tank onto cylindrically rotating brushes, which are closely followed by an extraction head. The system is easy to use and the carpet dries quickly. Shampoo residues can build up in the pile and hot water extraction is required at regular intervals to remove these and prevent re-soiling.

### Dri foam rotary (This system is not recommended for Brintons carpets)

A system widely used as a maintenance procedure for heavily used areas. Based on the floor buffing system, with slower head rotation, either rotary brushes or absorbent pads are used. The shampoo solution is either applied to the machine pads or sprayed on the surface of the carpet and the machine is moved over the surface. The treated pad absorbs soil from the carpet and holds it until the pad is next cleaned. This method of cleaning is not recommended for Brintons carpets as it can cause roughening and flattening of the carpet pile

## Main Cleaning Systems

### Hot Water Extraction

Hot water extraction machines work on the principle of spraying jets of water/cleaning solution into the pile and then extracting with a vacuum head, which follows immediately behind the spray jets. Some machines incorporate a brushing action between the spray head and the vacuum.

#### Method One

This method uses a shampoo solution in the tank, which is sprayed into the pile and then extracted. There is a greater risk of the spray jets becoming blocked with this method and some build up of shampoo residue may also occur in the pile.

#### Method Two

The tank is filled with a diluted fibre conditioner without shampoo. A pre-spray solution is applied to the carpet using a power spray with a fine nozzle. The chemical is left for 10 to 15 minutes in order for the chemical to work. The hot water extraction machine with fibre conditioner is then used to rinse out the pre-spray together with the soil.

It is important in both method one or two that the carpet is not over wet as drying time will be increased and there will also be a risk of shrinkage.

After cleaning, the carpet should not be walked upon until it is dry. Walking on a wet or damp carpet will result in rapid re-soiling and flattening of the pile.

### Important Considerations for Hot Water Extraction

Brintons recommend the low residue pre-spray/fibre rinse method. If method one is used the shampoo should be of a low residue type, which will not attract soil. The dilution and application rates recommended by the chemical manufacturer for either system must not be exceeded.

We would recommend that the area to be cleaned is cordoned off to prevent it being walked on whilst still wet. A list of Woolsafe approved cleaning operators can be found by contacting the web site [www.woolsafe.org](http://www.woolsafe.org)