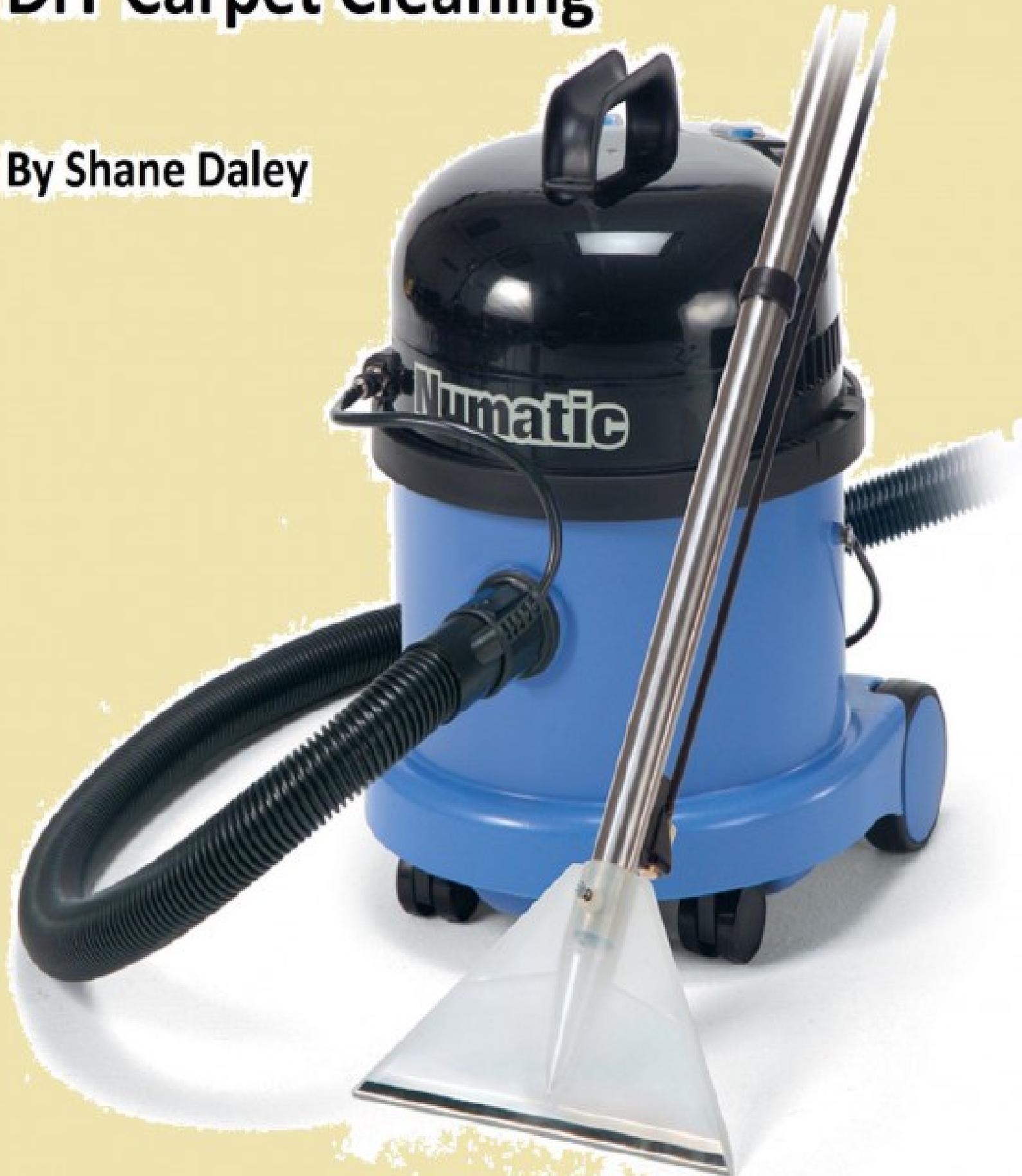


DIY Carpet Cleaning

By Shane Daley



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Smashwords edition

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BOOKLET AVAILABLE FOR TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS

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Let me start off by simply telling you how carpet cleaning will help.

Outside your home there is thousands of chemicals, there's pollen, dust and dirt. You'll see people smoking. There will be cars on busy roads. In some areas people will be working with substances creating odours. You'll come into contact with people daily with all sorts of odours. Perfumes, hair sprays, deodorisers, after shaves ext. In fact the outside world is a place fairly unclean. From it you'll bring home everything you've been exposed too. All the dust, dirt, pollen, chemicals and odours. All these pollutants will be in your hair and on your clothes. You come home from outside and you start to re-disperse these irritants.

Lucky for you there is a safety net which helps. That safety net is your carpet. That's right, everything that you bring in your home from outside is filtered. You re-disperse off yourself into your room onto your carpet. Then your carpet keeps it there in the fibres as it's supposed too. It does a brilliant job too, imagine having no carpet. Dust would just float around your room; you'd breathe it all day. Every time you walked across your lounge you'd disturb the dust.

That's why people do have carpets. There are three main reasons.

- 1/ they keep your place warm.
- 2/ they filter the air in your room.
- 3/ they keep sound levels down by absorbing noise.

Not only do carpets accomplish the above three facts, they look nice too.

So, back to why we must clean our carpets.

Outside air is constantly being replaced keeping it cleaner. Dust and dirt is often moved about the outside atmosphere and cleaner air replaces it. Indoor air is different because it is not continuously being replaced by clean air. Obviously exposure to the outside world allows part of it into your home. But there are already many things in your home, which pollute your air. Luckily the things I'm going to mention end up in your carpet too. These pollutants are the chemicals you clean with. The cooking smells from your kitchen. Your dog or you cat, budgie ext pets. Dust mites, spillages, food droppings and trod in soil.

There are literally thousands of odours and all sorts of soils present at home. Everything in your environment you expose yourself too is in your carpet.

Vacuum cleaning for preventing soil build up.

A daily vacuum clean will remove surface soils. What I mean when I use the word soil is (anything which makes your carpet unclean) I describe any unclean carpet as soiled. During weeks and months, soils get lodged in your carpet fibres. A vacuum clean will remove a lot of soiling. But over time soils are crammed into your carpet pile with foot traffic. Were you sit, were you walk; soiling isn't removed easily just by vacuum cleaning.

So, you can see how cleaning your carpet will remove these soils. Your carpet will once again have a new lease on life. After would your regular vacuum clean will keep you're carpets maintained.

Testing your carpet for cleaning safely.

The first thing you do to clean your carpet is test it.

This is very simple but essential. The test is for colour change, colour bleed and colour migration. Basically we need to find out if your carpet colours are stable. 99 out of 100 are always ok. But, there's always one that's unstable, so we test.

I'm not going into the full reasons why carpet colours might bleed. It would probably take a textbook for me to explain. Put simply it's all to do with PH levels. ALKALINITY and ACIDIC RINSES and cleaning solutions. Some cleaning solutions are high strength, they can pull colour out of carpet. Always test carpet cleaning solutions before you use them.

This Simple Test Will Prevent Your Carpet Colours From Bleeding, Migrating or Changing. Here Is The Test.

Before you continue reading, get your BOOKLET. It has all the details about the carpet cleaning tools, solutions and machine. Download the [BOOKLET NOW](#).

Take one white tissue and fold it until it fits into your knuckles. About half the size of a twenty cigarette box is fine. Put the tissue to one side for a moment. From your supplier you've got a hand sprayer. A plastic bottle with a trigger spray at the top. You need to mix a 4-1 solution of Multi Pro. To do this, take your measuring jug from your supplies and your 5-litre Multi Pro. (Blue label).

When you mix your solutions, always put your cleaning solution onto water. Not the other way round. (Water first). Use a white towel spread out somewhere, a place where you won't be disturbed. Mix your solutions on the towel.

Now, a 4-1 mix is 4 parts water and one part Multi Pro. So you fill your measuring jug up-to 400 millilitres with hot water. That's 0.4 of a litre. Use your funnel and pour in the remaining 100 millilitres of Multi Pro. An easy way is to tip your container sideways. So, you pour your solution from the side of your container. Doing it this way is easier than pouring from the front of your container.

Always mix your solutions as suggested.

They will work better if mixed properly and to the right strength. So now you will have your 4-1 mix of Multi Pro, simple.

Next, you need to find a place on your carpet. Somewhere out of the way for you to do your test. If there's a problem with colours bleeding, then test safe. Behind a door somewhere, or in the corner of your room. But do test somewhere where if colour migration happens it's not too noticeable.

Let's say you found a good place behind a door. Take your tissue and Multi Pro and spray into your carpet. All you need is just enough to wet a test area. Think of a cigarette pack. Soak your carpet with 4-5 sprays into your test place. Be certain that all of your carpet colours are covered. Just trigger 4 or 5 sprays in to your carpet. That will be enough to test with.

Press firmly onto your test spray with your folded tissue. Do this with your knuckles; press your tissue into the solution. Hold it there, just for 30 seconds.

Take a peek at the tissue; see if any colours have migrated.

If your test is showing no colour bleed, colours will remain stable. Your carpet will be safe to clean.

If colour migrated all is not lost. Your tissue will show colour has bled from your carpet. What that means is PH balance is unstable.

The solution to this problem is to neutralize your carpet PH. **THIS WILL STABILIZE YOUR CARPET COLOURS.** Your carpet will return back to neutral PH. Rinsing does this.

If colour transfers from your carpet into your tissue on test.

The problem is very slight. You may lose some colour from your carpet while cleaning. It does depend on how much colour transferred into your tissue. But let me mention this; in all the years I've spent cleaning carpets. Many customers have agreed to continue with cleaning. I have met this problem of (Colour bleed) a few times. My customers are told about it, they accept it. I go ahead and clean after they consent.

In nearly every case after cleaning there's absolutely no difference to colours. After I'm finished carpet cleaning the carpets just looked cleaner. If you do follow my suggestions, your carpet will only look cleaner too.

You'll probably notice no difference in your carpet colours after cleaning. Do be certain that you rinse with the solution I'll tell you about.

A mild warning to put you in the picture

It is my responsibility to offer this warning. Only you can decide whether to go ahead and carpet clean. If you choose to clean, if testing showed colour bleed. Only you can decide. From my experience you're unlikely to cause a problem. The worst possible scenario is that you may lose some colour from your carpet. The chance of colours bleeding is reduced by neutral PH rinsing. I mention this to customers; they accept and agree to go ahead. There rarely is ever a problem.

That's the hard bit out of the way. I hope now you're clearer on this.

Part two of Testing; includes identification of Carpet fibre and carpet construction.

This is to help you identify your carpet type. We'll take a look at your;

Carpet backings.

Carpet construction.

Carpet Fibres.

In my experience of cleaning carpets an unprofessional approach can cause problems. For that reason we will attempt to identify your carpet construction. We need some idea of how safe cleaning is for your carpets. What I'm talking about is shrinking problems.

May I say that problems with shrinking are always caused by over wetting? There are many and varied types of carpet and carpet backings. Most carpets will not shrink with wet cleaning. However some will. The problem lies in the sort of carpet construction and the carpet backings. If wet cleaning then my advice would be to use very little water.

The system described in this issue will enable you to carpet clean safely. But the secret is not to over wet any carpet.

Although some carpets such as carpets constructed of manmade fibres and backings are safe regardless. It is always best to err on the safe side. You should never assume your carpet will not shrink with cleaning. However with carefulness and testing. Plus the system that will ensure you use less water. There is far less chance of your carpet shrinking. If you keep these facts in mind, be careful about how much water you use. Keep water Luke warm too. Follow my technique for cleaning. There is very little chance your carpet will shrink.

During many years of carpet cleaning there was 2 carpets, which shrunk. The first carpet that shrunk happened when I starting out cleaning carpets. The second carpet belonged to my sister at her home. I'll explain what happened.

The first problem I had with shrinking I was cleaning a friend's carpet. I was very inexperienced. The technique I used to carpet clean was at best most unprofessional. I used only a soil extraction machine and rinse solution for cleaning. Realizing I did wrong, I learned from the mistake. Good job the customer was a friend. He accepted my mistake after I apologized to him. His carpet came away from the wall about an inch. It was wet the next day too. That's the sort of problem that happens. This is why you must know your carpet before you clean it.

The second problem I had with carpet shrinking was my sister's carpet. She asked me to carpet clean and I accepted. But I had an idea her carpet may shrink. Before cleaning I pointed this out to her that shrinking was a possibility. She accepted that, but said to clean regardless. The same thing happened, her carpet shrank about 1 inch.

How we avoid shrinking problems

Let me say that the first carpet in the story shrank due to inexperience: -

- The carpet was drenched.
- The carpet wasn't tested neither was it identified.
- My cleaning technique was wrong.
- I know if the job were re-done today, there would be no problem.
- No shrinking.
- No over wetting.
- No complaints.

In the second story, my sister's carpet, I did know. My sister's problem was that her house was on the market for sale. She wanted her carpets to look presentable for interested possible buyers. Knowing the possibility of her carpet shrinking, she decided I should go ahead.

Let me point out here; having cleaned thousands of carpets, just two shrank. The knowledge that accomplished this I want to pass to you. It is straightforward, once you know your carpets, then fine. You will not have a problem cleaning your carpets.

If you've ever had your carpets wet cleaned before, without them shrinking, fine. You can be more certain your carpets won't shrink. If you've never had your carpets cleaned before. Or never carpet cleaned before yourself. A couple of simple tests will help.

Here they are,

The burn test:

The burn test gives you more fibre type info.

Discover the identification of your carpet fibre. DO THIS TEST IF YOU'RE CARPETS HAVE NEVER BEEN WET CLEANED.

Step 1/ Pull out a fibre or two from your carpet edge. Cut the fibres out with a small pair scissors.

Step 2/ Hold your fibre in a pair of tweezers.

Bring it to a flame. Use a lighter. Do this somewhere safe. Over water or somewhere where there is no fire hazard.

You've got your lighter, your tweezers and your carpet fibre.

Approach the flame with your fibre in the tweezers.

Bring your fibre to the flame slowly.

The test is to see how the fibre reacts to the flame.

Here's a list of what to look for and take note of. Your fibre burn test will give you indications of your fibre type.

Take note of how the fibre smells.

How the fibre smokes.

How the fibre burns.

Does it flame up?

Does it shrivel?

Does it melt?

Make notes of how the fibre reacts to the flame.

Note the smoke from the fibre.

Is the smoke black or grey?

How does it smell?

Is the smell sweet?

Let me mention this;

Man-made fibres are less likely to shrink.

Natural fibres tend to shrink if over wet.

However, if natural fibre is cleaned properly there's less chance of shrinking. Testing will indicate your carpet fibre type.

You will be advised on cleaning procedures a little later in this issue.

Look for the indications below while doing your burn test.

WHAT DOES YOUR CARPET FIBRE DO WHEN YOU MOVE INTO THE FLAME?

Does it melt?

Does it Flame up?

Melt up?

Shrivel up?

Does it give off smoke?

WHAT DOES YOUR CARPET FIBRE SMELL LIKE AFTER IT'S BEEN IN THE FLAME?

Does it smell like hair burning?

Does it smell like paper?

Does it smell sweet?

Does it smell pungent?

Man-made fibres are less likely to shrink. Natural fibres tend to shrink if over wet.

However, if natural fibre is cleaned properly there's less chance of shrinking. Testing will indicate your carpet fibre type.

You will be advised on cleaning procedures a little later in this issue.

Look for the indications below while doing your burn test.

WHAT DOES YOUR CARPET FIBRE DO WHEN YOU MOVE INTO THE FLAME?

Does it melt?

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Does it give off smoke?

WHAT DOES YOUR CARPET FIBRE SMELL LIKE AFTER IT'S BEEN IN THE FLAME?

Does it smell like hair burning?

Does it smell like paper?

Does it smell sweet?

Does it smell pungent?

WHAT DOES YOU'RE CARPET FIBRE FEEL LIKE AFTER IT'S BEEN IN THE FLAME?

Wet your fingers and pinch at the fibre when it's cooled.

Does the fibre turn to ash?

Does the fibre feel hard and fused?

Does the fibre turn to black ash?

Does the fibre turn grey and ash?

To help us get an idea of your carpet fibre.

Here is a list of common carpet fibres found in carpeting.

POLYPROPYLENE.

Polypropylene will all most always shrink when wet cleaned.

Be certain you are not wet cleaning polypropylene. Come through the testing watching for signs that indicate

Polypropylene. This is important for you to be aware of. Polypropylene, call 0777 4568092 for your free advice.

WHEN YOU APPROACH THE FLAME WITH YOU'RE FIBRE WHAT HAPPENS?

Does your fibre quickly melt back?

Does your fibre look like molten plastic?

In the flame did your carpet fibre not flame up?

In the flame or just after being in the flame does the fibre smell pleasantly? Like a recognizable unique odour? Test after the fibre has been out of the flame a few seconds.

Does the fibre feel unbreakable and solid?

To identify polypropylene use the next test. See below the water test.

Polyester fibres;

There is less chance of shrinking problems with polyester fibres.

Identify your carpet fibre using the test below. When you move your fibre into the flame,

Does your fibre dissolve?

Does your fibre smell noticeably pleasant and chemically sharp?

Does your fibre fuse into a hardened grey blob? If your fibre reacts as described above move on.

The water test will reveal more.

Nylon.

Nylon carpeting is unlikely to shrink with wet cleaning. Do the tests below to identify Nylon Carpeting. When you move the fibre in to the flame,

Does the fibre melt, only just?

Does the fibre burn without flaming?

Does the fibre burn without turning black?

Does the fibre burn without making a ball?

Does the fibre smell noticeably nice while burning or after burning?

Does the fibre feel firm and strong after burning?

Does the fibre look darkened after burning?

If your carpet fibre reacted to testing as above, move on to the water test.

Rayon.

When you move your carpet fibre into the flame,

Does your carpet fibre show no signs of melting down?

Does your carpet fibre make sparks and flaming? Does your carpet fibre smell like burning paper?

Does your carpet fibre crumble to ash when pressed?

If your carpet fibre reacted as above, move on to the water test.

Jute.

When you move your carpet fibre into the flame does your carpet fibre show little sign of melting down? Does your carpet fibre spark and make a flame?

Does your carpet fibre visibly glow red?

Does your carpet fibre smell just like burning paper? Does your carpet fibre after being in the flame crumble to ash?

Simply press what you've burned with wet fingers to find out.

If your carpet fibre reacted as above, move onto the water test.

Acrylic.

When you move your carpet fibre into the flame does your carpet fibre melt down quite a lot?

Does your carpet fibre burn in a yellow flame?

Does your carpet fibre create dark smoke? (Black in fact)

Does your carpet fibre give off an unpleasant or harsh smell? Does your carpet fibre make a blob that is firm and black?

If your carpet fibre meets the above results with testing, move on to the water test.

The above different types of carpet fibre are mostly safe to clean. However the POLYPROPYLENE carpet in some instances should be cleaned differently. The system to use I'll explain further on. The above carpet fibres are manmade fibres. I have never had a problem with shrinking with any of the above carpets. Next we will discover more about fibres that are natural.

The same test applies to each of these fibres.

Wool

When you move the fibre in to the flame?

Does your carpet fibre dry up and wrinkle without melting? Does your carpet fibre make a small flame while it is burning?

Does your carpet fibre stop burning when it's out of the flame?

Does your carpet fibre smell anything like hair burning? Does your carpet fibre turn to darkened ashes? Can you easily crush and break it into dust? When you squash and squeeze the fibre will it just crumble?

Does your carpet fibre dry up and wrinkle without melting? Does your carpet fibre make a small flame while it is burning?

Does your carpet fibre stop burning when it's out of the flame?

Does your carpet fibre smell anything like hair burning? Does your carpet fibre turn to darkened ashes? Can you easily crush and break it into dust? When you squash and squeeze the fibre will it just crumble?

If your carpet fibre meets the above results, move on to the water test.

Cotton

When you move your carpet fibre into the flame,

Does your carpet fibre show little or no sign of melting down?

Does your carpet fibre spark and make a flame?

Does your carpet fibre smell like paper burning?

Does your carpet fibre after being in the flame crumble to ash? Press your burned fibre with wet fingers. If your carpet fibre meets all the results with testing, move on to the water test.

Now do your water test. This test is very simple. We just need to discover whether your carpet fibre will float in water. Your carpet fibre will either float or your carpet fibre will sink. Whichever way

your carpet fibre responds to water it tells us something. Here is a list of carpet fibres you are testing for.

Bedrooms, Lounge room, Dining room, Kitchen, Hall, Stairs,
Landing.

1 2 3 4

Now do your water test. This test is very simple. We just need to discover whether your carpet fibre will float in water.

Your carpet fibre will either float or your carpet fibre will sink. Whichever way your carpet fibre responds to water it tells us something.

Here is a list of carpet fibres you are testing for.

Bedrooms. Lounge room. Dining room. Kitchen. Hall. Stairs. Landing.

POLYPROPYLENE |||||

POLYESTER |||||

NYLON|||||

RAYON|||||

JUTE |||||

ACRYLIC |||||

WOOL|||||

COTTON |||||

If any of these tests seem too demanding for you. I will if you want help you. You can call with any problems remember. I will be able to help you from my support desk when you e mail me. These tests are important for you to do.

Once you've discovered your carpet fibre type, you will feel safer cleaning your carpets. Some carpet cleaning people will do these tests others won't. So put yourself ahead by getting to know your carpet fibres. It is much safer to know than not to know. After all you don't want your carpet shrinking or your colours migrating.

So please do the tests and be safe with your cleaning.

Especially test if your carpets are being cleaned for the first time. The secret is NOT TO OVER WET ANY CARPET WHILE CLEANING. This will reduce chances of shrinking every time.

There are unlimited advantages of using your own carpet cleaning system.

This course will prevent mishaps for you. Carpets are expensive and delicate. You don't want to ruin an important investment. Least of all you want the most from your carpeting not less. Here is the water test;

This test is very simple to do. All we are trying to discover is whether your carpet fibre floats. If your fibre does not float then this tells us more. Through the two tests, burn test and water test we will have enough information to identify your carpet fibres. Once we know this, we can carpet clean more safely.

It's not hard to carry out these tests. But it is essential. Once you've completed all the tests then you'll feel safe cleaning. Remember; if your carpets have been wet cleaned before eliminate the burn test. (Only if no shrinking occurred). But do be sure to do the dye bleed test.

I just want to run through with you here. The two carpets I mentioned earlier, both carpets were polypropylene fibres.

Every other carpet I've cleaned before has been safe to wet clean. So this really narrows down your concerns. But I have to tell you about what to look out for.

The polypropylene carpet fibre is found in carpets imported from Europe. The one in particular that will shrink every time is a Belgian Wilton. There are all so imitations of the Belgian Wilton on the market. But you will always be able to identify them. **ALMOST EVERY OTHER CARPET IS SAFE TO CLEAN BAR A FEW.** The only things you must remember is water and the construction of your carpet.

The reason why carpets shrink is due to using too much water. (Over wetting) So please remember that whatever your carpet type. Whether it be any of the following types simply remember this.

IT'S THE WATER YOU USE FOR CLEANING WHICH WILL SHRINK YOU'RE CARPET.

Whether your carpet construction is;

Woven.

Cut pile.

Bonded.

Looped pile.

Flocked.

Needle punched.

Fibre bonded.

Wilton.

Brussels.

Shag pile.

Twist pile.

Shadow.

Saxony.

Wool.

Acrylic.

Polyester.

Polypropylene.

Natural fibres.

Animal fibres.

Rayon.

Jute.

Or Nylon.

Simply remember - the less water you use for cleaning the less chance of shrinking. The system I will explain to you for carpet cleaning will prevent shrinking. I'm going into all this detail just so you will know. After all you don't want your carpet to shrink after cleaning.

If you do own a Belgium Wilton carpet do not despair. You can still clean it. It's just that the system you will need is different. I can explain more about what to do. Simply e mail me at support@shanedaley.org. The system explained in the 'Carpet Maintenance Cleaning Guidebook' will prevent shrinking.

Water test gives you more information of your carpet fibre type.

In this test you simply place your carpet fibre into water. Almost every carpet fibre I've mentioned thus far will float on testing. If you test polypropylene fibre you'll see that the fibre will not float.

So now you've tested your carpets, all of them. You'll feel sure that you can simply clean your carpets without a problem. But I must stress here that caution is necessary. Too much water on some carpets may shrink them. So please do follow my advice and you won't go far wrong.

Please remember it's better to use less water for carpet cleaning.

Increase your vacuum cleaning performance by 50% or more.

Let me explain; -- until now, you've vacuum cleaned your carpeting-the-usual-way. But let me say, there is a better way and a less-effective way. You may only be vacuum cleaning as much as half the machines potential.

Your vacuum cleaner is designed to pull maximum soils from your carpet. However that's the job of your vacuum cleaner. It will do its work as it's supposed too. But what about the operator! It doesn't say that you will pull maximum soils from your carpet. So the machine will do its part no problem.

But will you do your part?

So how do you use your vacuum cleaner? How do you pull out maximum soils every-time you vacuum-clean?

Here's how,

First of all understand how your vacuum cleaner works. Let's take an upright vacuum cleaner.

How does it work?

If you look on the underside, your machine will have a brush. What it does is obvious. The brush will spin and collect the soil. Your vacuum cleaner will lift soils from the turning brush. So you use your vacuum cleaner happily picking up soils.

But let's take a closer-look at how your vacuum cleaner works. You'll see as the brush turns the vacuum follows and lifts soil. But now take a look at your carpet. You'll discover something important. Brush your hand across your carpet pile. You'll feel like the grain in wood the pile flows. There's a rough way and a smooth way. Against the flow of the Carpet pile.-(The rough way) with the flow of the carpet pile - (The smooth way.) So now you have a clue.

On your vacuum cleaner your rotating brush will turn forward. Now 10-1 your carpet pile is set to point to a window. A room with the main light coming in from that window. The pile in your carpet will point to that main window. Just rub your hand across your carpet pile, you'll feel it. Without going into too much detail there is a reason why.

It's this: - If your carpet fibres do not point into sunlight they'll reflect light. Over time reflected light will fade your carpet. So what carpet fitters will do is compensate. They will lay your carpet so the fibre will point into light. That way the light is absorbed by the fibre and not reflected. Hence, your carpet will not fade as a result of sunlight.

So let's get back to how to vacuum clean. If you think of your vacuum cleaner brushes turning forward. If you know that your carpet pile is pointing a certain way (into light or a main window) if you vacuum clean with your brush turning forward. The idea is to lift your carpet pile with your turning brush. How you do that is easy, you vacuum clean towards yourself. You check the direction of your carpet pile. Then you vacuum clean towards yourself. Simply bring your machine slowly towards yourself so the brush lifts the pile.

The vacuum will pull soil out if the pile is first lifted. The other way would flatten the carpet pile, soils would get buried.

The vacuum has to work harder to remove soils. Slowly just bring your vacuum cleaner toward yourself. Work against the carpet pile. Overlap half your machine width with each pass. To pick up more soil just pull your machine slower.

That's how your vacuum cleaner will pick up more soil every time. It's up to you though to use the technique. It does work!

The principle for a cylindrical vacuum cleaner is the same.

The floor tool you push and pull across your carpet will vacuum clean. All you do is push the cleaning head into the carpet pile. The vacuum head will lift the carpet pile then vacuum soils out. Just remember to push the vacuum cleaning head into your carpet pile. (Against the flow) Bring the head back toward yourself then push again into the pile. Overlap half your vacuum cleaning head each time you push.

One more quick tip; it is a good idea to have a crevice tool attachment. This is just a nozzle, which fits onto your vacuum hose. Use it for cleaning into the edges of your carpet. The reason is that draft marks will form on carpet edges.

What happens is the draft through a doorway will sweep around edges. You may have noticed on your carpet. Normally a black mark is seen where your carpet meets your wall. Vacuum cleaning your edges with a crevice tool will prevent draft marks.

All so a small attachment for cleaning stairs is useful. Now just briefly to explain about pre-vacuum cleaning before carpet cleaning. If you can, clear half your room. But bear in mind about how you'll be vacuum cleaning. (Toward yourself, against the carpet pile direction). So if you can clear your room so you have half cleared. Usually a good idea is to clean first from the furthest corner. Make it so the last part your carpet clean is your exit.

Big items of furniture like wall units can usually stay in place. Any small things you can move do. Your chairs and settee can be pushed to one side. So can beds and sideboards.

You may want to keep wardrobes in place. Just use your initiative when moving furniture. What can stay in place and what you want to move?

Remember; when vacuum cleaning, do edges and corners with your crevice tool. Work slowly to pick up more soils.

That concludes your vacuum clean for now. Next we move on to stain removal. Remember just half your room is clear and vacuum cleaned now. So let's move straight on.

The best-three ways to remove any stain or spot from your carpet.

- 1/ you can brush agitate the stain to remove it.
- 2/ you can blot the stain out with a white hand towel.
- 3/ you can use a hot iron and damp white hand towel.

The three above methods are simple and effective. But more so when the right - solutions are used for removing stains. There are literally hundreds of stain remover products on the market. But if you follow my suggestions you will not go far wrong. The most effective products so far used by me are Prochem. Almost every stain treated has been removed. There are rare examples of stains being permanent. But very few in my experience.

Now for you to have a full range of Prochem stain removers. You would only need such products if you cleaned carpets every day. So what I will do for you is list the major ones. There are just about 5. Take a look at the list below.

These are used for stains, which you may have or had in your home.

- 1/ Multi Pro.
- 2/ Stain Pro.
- 3/ Coffee Stain Remover.
- 4/ Red Rx.
- 5/ Bazooka Chewing Gum remover.

Now the list above is just in case you ever need it. It is not there for you to order all the products. Over time you may find your own personal range of products increasing. But to put your mind at ease you won't need all the stain removal products. You just want the few most common ones, I've listed them above.

Now let's get back to how we treat stains and remove them.

Pre-spray and brush agitation gives extraordinary carpet cleaning results.

For common-stains and most other daily soiling we use multi pro. All you do is spray the solution onto the stain. You work from the outside-edges of the stain in. You take your nylon hand brush and from the outside-edges rock your brush on the stain. Just place your brush firmly on the stain and rock your brush.

Keep on doing this until you've removed the stain. There may well be some soil visible after you attempt to remove it. But once you've treated the stain with pre-spray and brush agitation. Extraction cleaning will then remove remaining soil.

Don't make an attempt at removing stains without rinsing. Some solutions for stain removal are strong. What happens is they can take out colour. So please do remember to rinse while working on stains Spots are treated in the same way. You just spray on your multi Pro then rock your brush. You can scrub, but rocking your brush will prevent damage to fibres. You don't have to go mad. Just rock your brush gently on the stain. You'll see the stain being removed.

Now, all the cleared area that you've vacuum-cleaned, remove your stains. It's always best to do your stain removing before you carpet-clean. Once you've removed all the stains, repeat on the other side. Just bring your furniture back across. Vacuum-clean your cleared carpet. Then remove you're stains with your multi Pro and brush rocking.

The reason why we clear stains away first is to prevent spreading. You don't have to stop-and-start either once your carpet cleaning. The idea is to have a straight carpet cleaning start to finish. No stopping and starting to remove stains.

Pre-spray and blot out with towel.

Water based stains removed easily with a simple spray, blot and dab.

This method is used for more unusual staining. Such stains as tea, Coffee, Ink, blood, fruit juice. In fact any sort of water-based stain blotting is most effective. For this sort of stain removal you need a white towel. You need your cleaning-solution and hand-spray.

To complete the stain removal you need your extraction machine for rinsing. Plus you'll need your hand tool for rinse-extraction. If you have the equipment listed, this stain removal technique will work. It's not hard to do. There should be no reason why any water based stain isn't removable. However there will be just the odd stain maybe that is permanent.

Let's begin.

For this type of stain removing there are many solutions.

But each one available is for a certain sort of stain. But there are just a fair number of typical domestic stains. So we'll cover these, rather than get into all the details. I'm going to include just three-solutions for removing stains. Any solutions you use for cleaning have to be tested first. Follow my suggestions on testing described earlier.

Three effective stain remover products.

1/ Will be coffee stain remover.

2/ Will be Stain Pro.

3/ Will be Red RX.

So let's go through the procedures of stain removal by blotting-and-dabbing.

If we take one example from our list, number 1, coffee stain remover. The procedure is almost exactly the same for all the other stains. There are just a few variations in solution mix and rinsing. But the technique is exactly the same for removing water based stains. If you can follow these suggestions you will know how it's done.

So, let's look at how to remove a coffee or tea stain. First we need our solution mix, in this case it's neat. We do not mix the cleaning solution with water. We use it just as it comes. So if you take your hand sprayer, fill to half way. Use your funnel and place a towel down for mixing and pouring solutions.

Your extraction machine rinsing solution is just warm water. No other solution is needed with coffee and tea stain removal. We just use clean fresh water for rinsing.

So fill your machine with 5 litres of warm water. Use your funnel and bucket. Attach your hand tool to the machine hose for rinse extraction.

Now your clean white towel needs to be damp. Rinse it through in warm water and squeeze out until damp. Then fold your towel first in half. Fold again, and again and again. Finish up with a folded towel the size of your hand.

Next we need to spray your coffee or tea stain as if fanning. What that means is you spray like a fan. Spray from the outside edges of the stain, fanning-in to centre. Give your stain a good spray, use your coffee stain remover solution generously. But don't overdo it. Just fan your solution onto your stain until it's completely covered. Working from the outside edges in to the centre of your stain.

Once you feel comfortable that your stain is completely sprayed move on. Get your folded white-towel and start to dab and blot. Work from the outside edges of your stain. Just gently press your towel onto the stain moving round the edges. Keep turning your towel occasionally to a clean part. You will start to notice your stain being absorbed into your towel. This is as it should be. Just continue to blot and dab applying a little pressure.

Just go easy and take your time, there is no rush. Gradually you will come closer to the centre of your stain. Just work in until you're at the centre. The stain should be barely visible after blotting the centre of it.

If you need to spray more coffee-stain-remover then do. Just spray from the outside edges in. You can repeat spraying and blotting, as you need too. But two or three times is usually enough. Just remember your rinse- extract will remove any stain barely visible. Probably you'll need only one extraction-rinse to do this. Simply pass your hand tool slowly-to-extract.

At this point you rinse the stain through. Turn your machine on and rinse from the outside edges into centre. Just trigger in your water and make a second pass to extract. Once you've rinsed the whole stain out, extract with just vacuum. Go over the area to vacuum access water out. Vacuum from the outside edges to the centre.

You can use any machine to clean a stain like this. All your machine has to have is a trigger spray and vacuum. A Vax machine would do or any similar machine.

Hot iron stain removal method

The best way to tackle troublesome stains, you use an effective method for cleaning. To clean stains that are quite stubborn you use the hot iron method. An example is to apply Red RX to the stain evenly. Then use a damp white clean towel. Spread the towel over the stain. Have a hot iron to hand.

You simply place the hot iron onto the towel to absorb the stain. Keep on turning the towel to a clean part. Apply more Red RX solution if required.

This method for removing stains will work given patience. You simply use the method until the stain shows no improvement. You'll know when you've removed as much of the stain as possible. Persist with this cleaning method, it will work. Remember to rinse extract after blotting and dabbing.

All other water based stains removed easily and simply.

Everything you do to remove a water based stain has been covered already. The only difference is the rinsing and solution mix. Normally you would have to mix a stain removal pre-spray. The rinsing solution you use will also need to be mixed. It's very simple, just mix your rinse solution and pre-spray as suggested. There is nothing complicated about it whatsoever.

Mix your carpet cleaning solutions to get maximum performance every time.

Every solution you use for cleaning-carpet has to be used properly. Therefore you have to mix your solution exactly as suggested. They will work much better if you mix them properly. So for you I've listed all the solutions your likely to use.

The suggestion for mixing is indicated with the solution.

7 common carpet cleaning solutions and how to mix them.

Fibre Fabric Rinse. (100-1)

Extraction Pro. (100-1)

Multi Pro. (4-1) or (8-1)

Coffee Stain Remover. (Neat)

Stain Pro. (50-50) or (Neat)

Red RX. (Neat)

Bazooka Chewing Gum remover. (Neat) (Aerosol) See free Booklet on how to use these solutions.

These solutions are probably all you'll need to clean your carpets. There are lots of others. But these 7 will be your main solutions. I would go further and say you won't need any other solutions. Your carpets will benefit fully from cleaning with just these seven solutions. You won't need anymore.

Now we move on to pre-spraying your carpet for brush-agitation.

First thing you do is to test your pre-spray. Once you've got your pre-spray tested choose which rinse solution to use. Remember; slight colour bleed on test, use your 'fibre fabric rinse'. If there is no colour migration on test use your 'extraction pro'.

If you're cleaning wool-rich carpet use your fibre fabric rinse.

Wool rich carpet --- Fibre Fabric Rinse.

No colour migration on carpet test --- Extraction Pro.

Colour migration on carpet test --- Fibre Fabric Rinse.

There is one pre-spray solution I've suggested you use. The one solution is your multi pro. Use multi pro to do all your carpet-cleaning. Use Multi Pro for your dining-room carpet. Your kitchen carpet. Multi Pro will do a fine job.

You can use Multi Pro for all general-carpet-cleaning. Bedroom carpets, Lounge carpet, Hall, stairs and landing carpet, kitchen, bathroom and toilet. The two suggested rinse solutions are 'Fibre fabric rinse' and 'Extraction Pro'. You clean any carpet with fibre fabric rinse solution. Where as, extraction pro is used for manmade fibres. The water temperature can be higher when using extraction pro. Fibre fabric rinse solution is good for cleaning colour sensitive carpets and wool rich carpeting. Be sure to read this before mixing your solutions.

Multi-pro works best at two different measures. For heavy soiling use multi pro at a 4-1 mix. 4 parts hot water to one part multi pro. For lighter-soiling use multi pro at an 8-1 mix. 8 parts hot water to 1 part multi pro.

1 litre pre-sprayed should cover an average 5yds x 4yds. That's 20 square yards of carpet, an average size room. (20 square meters approximately)

At first just mix a simple 8-1 mix. Or for a heavy soiled carpet mix 8-2. You will probably be able to pre-spray almost one room with 1 litre.

If you have to make up another mix, do so. The reason I've suggested this, is to get you used to it. You will know how far your 8-1 mix will pre-spray. How far an 8-2 mix will pre-spray. If you have to mix another 4-1 or 8-1 pre-spray solution that's fine. You'll be getting used to how the pre-sprays work. Mix your Multi Pro pre-spray in your measuring jug. Remember; mix your multi pro pre-spray exactly as suggested 4-1 or 8-1. Multi pro works best when mixed properly. Add Multi-pro to water, not water to multi pro.

Once you've got your pre-spray mixed, pour your solution into your sprayer. Use your funnel for pouring mixed solution. Pump up your sprayer to a good pressure. Have your spray constantly working at this pressure. If you notice you're pressure decreasing while spraying just pump it up. Start your pre-spraying from the furthest corner of your room. Spray about 4 feet horizontally then stop, release the trigger. Then spray back across half overlapping your first spray, and then release your trigger. Stop.

Then repeat again overlapping half each time. Stop on every pass of your lance when you release your trigger. Spray about 5 feet vertically then stop. You should have a nice even spray of solution. An area of 5 feet wide and 6 feet long no more. That's all you need to do just now. (2 meters x 3 meters approximately)

Brush-agitate pre-sprayed solution deep into your carpet pile. Loosening soil and separating soils from your carpet fibres for easy rinsing.

For the next part you will brush agitate the pre-spray. To do this you simply brush in one direction forward and backward. Overlap your brush strokes each time working from left to right. Then back across from right to left. Overlap each time. Brush until the 5 feet wide by 6 feet long area is done.

Please do brush in your pre-spray gently. Too harsh an activity will exhaust you. Please go very easy when agitating in your pre-spray. There is no need to go too harsh. If you can agitate the pre-spray solution aggressively then do. But caution is required. Simply agitate pre-spray solution whatever way suites you best.

Creating air-flow while rinse extracting gives better cleaning – faster drying – you'll be extracting much more solution using this technique.

Have your extraction machine ready, with you floor wand. Be sure you've got your rinse solution in the machine. Then start rinse extracting your pre-spray. To do this, work from left to right. Start by placing your wand on your carpet were you've pre-sprayed. Try to rinse extract in straight lines in sequence.

So start on the left and work to the right. Just extract in one foot straight lines. Pull your trigger to release rinse solution and bring your wand back. Just bring it back towards yourself slowly. Keep your wand up high. Think of it as if you're looking straight down on your carpet. You need to keep your wand up so you'll have airflow. If you bring your wand back towards yourself holding it low, air flow is restricted.

Keep your wand up high when you bring it back towards yourself. Do it this way each time you bring your wand towards yourself. You will have proper air flow if you do it this way. At the end of your 1 foot pass, release your trigger spray.

Then stop. The next thing you have to do is push your wand forward. When you do this you lower your wand, this gives airflow. So lower your wand to about middle of thigh height and push forward.

Just go forward over what you rinse extracted without spraying. When you do this you will be extracting access rinse solution. But do remember to keep your wand low when pushing forward.

Now move on to your next extraction rinse. Just place your wand on the next place for rinsing. Overlap the wand one quarter from your last pass. Then bring your wand slowly back towards yourself. Keep your wand up high for airflow with your trigger pressed.

At the end of your 1 foot pass, release your trigger. Then stop. Lower your wand to thigh height then push forward to vacuum extract. Always push forward with lowered wand. Keep your wand high when bringing it back towards yourself. Doing it this way will seem slightly awkward at first. Lowering and hiring your wand is essential for creating airflow. If you clean your carpet without airflow, over wetting occurs. Once you've got the hang of this technique it's easy.

Your carpet clean will be done simply and thoroughly. That is what makes the difference. You'll see once you've cleaned two or three carpets. The results are amazing.

Right now we are at the stage of rinse extraction. We've got our pre-spray done plus agitation, just 5 feet wide by 6 feet. Now just continue to rinse extract as I've described. Do just four or five passes towards yourself. And four or five pushing forward on the same passes you make toward yourself. Do this to vacuum-extract.

Once we've got four or five rinse extraction passes done. And 4 or 5 forward pushes done then stop. The next thing we do is vacuum extract. We vacuum over the four or five rinse extraction passes. Just use your lowering and hiring technique to vacuum extract. Go over your cleaned carpet using only your vacuum extract.

Once you've carpet cleaned your cleared area, move your furniture back. Simply push or move items of furniture across to your cleaned area.

Then just continue to carpet clean as before. **DO MAKE CERTAIN TO VACUUM CLEAN FIRST.** After vacuum cleaning remove any stains or spots.

Continue the same way as before to carpet clean. Once you've completely finished your carpet clean one thing remains to do. You must set your carpet pile for drying. To do this you have to clean your carpet pile brush. There are lots of ways you can do this. You can use a separate pile brush, or clean the one you've used. A suggestion is to fill your bucket to 6-8 litres. Place one side of your carpet pile brush into the water. Take your Nylon hand brush and clean your pile brush fibres. Have your pile brush half submerged in the water. Then turn your pile brush round so the other half is submerged.

Or you can hose your carpet pile brush down in your garden.

Or you can pressure spray the brush to clean it. Once your brush has been washed, it doesn't have to be spotless. Just clean off access soils so they don't spread onto your carpet. It's unlikely a little-soiling in the brush base will transfer.

Setting your carpet to dry adds the final touch for superb carpet-cleaning results.

When you set a carpet, you're helping your carpet to dry. You're all so setting your carpet so it dries straight and even. You could refer to setting as combing. We just want the carpet to dry nice and straight and neat. So we set it to dry.

Take your cleaned carpet pile brush and set your carpet as follows. You need to brush your carpet pile against its original-direction. So your carpet pile will point to light.

You must set your carpet fibres to point away from the light. It's just so your carpet fibres are aired for drying. Just set your carpets pile the opposite way your carpet fibres flow. You can easily find which way your carpet pile is set. Just rub your hand across the pile. You'll feel the direction of the flow of your carpet pile. Simply set your carpet to flow the opposite way.

You raise the pile to help your carpet dry fast. When you replace your furniture, which you can do now. Be certain you've set all of your carpet. Once your furniture is in place. Just make one final brush setting. This will finish your carpet clean. Well done.

The technique you've just discovered is the professional way to carpet clean. If you use this technique you will always get a superb result. You will be able to clean any carpet whether it's fairly clean. Or you will be able to clean any carpet if it's heavily soiled.

Here's how to clean your stairway carpet.

Safety first.

Clean your stair carpet, but do take some precautions. Try not to work with the equipment overhead. Position your cleaning machine below yourself if possible. If your machine is positioned at the top of your stairway, problems may occur.

Clean your upstairs landing carpet and maybe 4 or 6 stairs only. Keep the cleaning machine positioned safely. Behind your banister or in a closed room is safest. If you pull the machine down your stairs, that's dangerous. Please keep safety in mind while cleaning stairways.

Carpet cleaning stairways is simple and easy. Use you nylon hand brush and your pressure sprayer. Mix 1 litre of multi pro solution. Either 4-1 or an 8-1 mix. Have a clean, white, damp, folded terry towel to hand.

Vacuum out dry soils. Vacuum clean your stairs first of all. Vacuum out as much dry soil as possible. Take your time while vacuum cleaning. Have a rest after you reach the last step. Prepare your equipment; you'll want your rinse solution in the machine. 5 litres of rinse solution is enough to carpet clean a stairway. Connect up your hand tool attachment to the machine hose. Set up your cleaning equipment on your upstairs landing.

Mix 1 litre of multi pro pre-spray in your measuring jug. Pour the solution into your pressure sprayer. Have your clean white terry towel folded and ready while cleaning.

Start your stair cleaning from the first step at the top.

Clean only one step each time. Pump up your pressure sprayer. Spray your multi pro onto the first step. Spray on as much pre-spray solution as you think you need. A nice even spray of solution will be fine. Be careful though not to over wet your carpet. Gently or aggressively agitate the pre-spray into your carpeted step.

Agitate the front of your step and the back part. The backs of stairs rarely need cleaning. Agitate the back part of your stair by just brushing mildly. The centre of your stair gets soiled most. Extra agitation helps to clean the centre of your step more thoroughly. Switch on your machine and keep it on while cleaning. Have the machine positioned safely in a place at the top of your stairway.

You've pre-sprayed your first step. You've brush agitated the pre-spray solution. Next rinse-extract the pre-sprayed solution. Rinse extract from either left to right or right to left. Rinse-extraction I find is easiest cleaning crossways. Clean from one side of the step to centre, then the other side to centre.

Concentrate your efforts cleaning the centre of your step.

Try cleaning from the left to centre of the step. Stop. Clean again from the left to centre. Overlap your extraction rinse pass one quarter each time. After you've cleaned half of your step, make a couple of extraction passes and vacuum out excess solution.

Do one extraction rinse pass with trigger pressed, then stop. Push forward over the rinse extraction pass with only vacuum. You do four or five rinse extraction passes. And you vacuum only 4 or 5 pushes forward over the rinse extraction passes. Once you've cleaned half of your step, stop. Go back over the cleaned area using vacuum extract only.

Repeat on the other side of your step. Work into centre of your step. The centre of your stair is the most likely to be soiled. Clean the centre as described above from left to right or right to left. Just concentrate on cleaning the centre of your step more thoroughly.

Once you've cleaned your step, set the carpet pile. Have your clean white towel handy; fold it to fit into your hand. Set your carpet pile by wiping the carpet in one direction for drying. Set the pile to lift the carpet fibres. Work with your machine below yourself.

Move on to the stair below and repeat as you did before.

After you've carpet cleaned 4 – 6 steps, move your carpet cleaning machine below. Work with the machine below yourself. After you've carpet cleaned every step, go back to the top. Bring your equipment down the stairs. From the top wipe the sides of your steps. Where your carpet meets the wall may well be soiled with cleaning. Just give the sides of your step a quick wipe to clean.

First three steps are most important to clean.

The first three steps at the bottom of your stairway need extra cleaning. Soils on these first 3 steps will spread up your stairs. Pay careful attention to cleaning these three steps. Soils will not spread if you keep your first three steps clean.

Lastly fold your towel to a clean part. Do one final setting to finish your stair cleaning. Open a couple of windows for ventilation. One final set will insure that your stairway carpet dries neat, fast and straight.

I wish you good luck with your carpet cleaning. My intention is to help you keep costs down. All so to help you get the best carpet cleaning for your hard earned cash.

If you would like to use this guide, gradually you'll ease into every aspect of carpet cleaning in your home. Not only will you learn all about the necessary tools, equipment and solutions. You can use my advice on going and keep your carpets clean.

This issue will give you detailed snippets of information. Gradually you will have everything you need for cleaning your carpets. I look forward to helping you with all your carpet cleaning needs, now and in the future.

I wish you all the very best

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Other Books by Shane Daley

- How to Clean Upholstery
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