

# New Life Carpet & Furniture CLEANING Spotting Guide

Blotting and applying are the basic steps of any carpet cleanup. Start by blotting up the spill using a clean white absorbent material, like terry cloth or paper towels. Work from the outer edge to the center. Keep turning or replacing the towel so a fresh surface is always being applied to the carpet. Gently scrape up solids with the edge of a spoon.

While you work, keep an eye on the towel. As long as you're getting the color of the spill on the towel you are making progress. Keep blotting until you are not getting any more transfer to your towel. Never rub. Rubbing can fuzz or distort carpet fibers, as well as spread the stain.

Before applying anything, try to identify the source of the stain. Different stains require different cleaning procedures. Always pretest in an inconspicuous spot any cleaning solution you are going to use. Without over-wetting apply "Spot Out" or the solutions we recommend here. Use clean white unprinted materials.

Never use all-purpose spray cleaners, bleach, or alkaline detergents---You can damage your carpeting.

When you have cleaned up and rinsed as best you can, get a thickness of fresh towels. Place them on the spot and put a weight on top of it, like a glass or ceramic dish. This will work as a poultice and help draw out more of the spot.

Identify the source of the stain. Check the list below for stain type and its corresponding letter(s). Follow the lettered instructions under "Complex". All numbers relate to the steps under "Basic". Regardless of source, immediately clean up as much stain as possible.

Call us if you have a difficult spot. We are just a phone call away and we have lots of experience in removing tough spots and stains. Pet stains, in particular, often require special treatment.

\*May require professional cleaning. \*\*All ingredients must be cold.

Acne Medicine.....G	Glue, White.....B	Nail Polish.....F
Asphalt.....A	Graphite.....H	Paint, Latex.....A
Bleach* .....G	Grease, Auto.....A	Paint, Oil.....A
Blood**.....B	Grease, Food.....A	Paper Mache.....D
Butter.....A	Hair Oil.....A	Paste Wax.....A
Candle Wax.....E	Hair Spray.....A	Petroleum Jelly.....A
Carbon Black.....G	Hand Lotion.....A	Plant Food* .....G
Chalk.....H	Ice Cream.....B	Rubber Cement.....A
Charcoal.....H	Ink, Ball Point Pen* .....A	Rust.....C
Chewing Gum.....E	Ink, Marking Pen* .....A	Shellac.....A
Chocolate.....D	Insecticide* .....G	Shoe Polish.....A
Coffee* .....D	Iodine* .....G	Shortening.....A
Cough Syrup.....D	Linseed Oil.....A	Solder* .....G
Crayon.....A	Lipstick.....A	Soot* .....G
Dirt.....H	Machine Oil.....A	Tar.....A
Drain Cleaner* .....G	Makeup.....A	Tea* .....D
Dye* .....G	Mascara.....A	Toilet Cleaner* .....G
Flea/Tick Powder/Spray.G	Mayonnaise.....D	Toothpaste.....B
Foundation Makeup.....A	Milk.....D	Unknown.....A,D
Fungicide* .....G	Mixed Drinks (liqueurs)..D	Urine/Feces* .....C
Furniture Polish.....A	Mud.....D	Vomit* .....G
Furniture Stain.....A		Wine, White.....D
Glue, Hobby.....A		

## **Basic**

1. Using White absorbent cloth or paper towels, blot up or scoop up as much of the spill as possible. Never rub. Rubbing can alter the texture of the carpet.
2. Apply (without over wetting) clean warm (not hot) water to stained area. Blot up firmly to remove as much moisture as possible. Repeat until there's no stain or no further transfer of stain
3. If Stain Remains on carpet, apply (without over wetting) a solution of warm water and mild non-bleach liquid laundry detergent (1 teaspoon to 1 quart water). Clear mild dishwashing liquid, without additives like hand softeners or scents, is also ok. Let stand for about 5 minutes.
4. IMPORTANT STEP: Blot up the detergent. Then apply clear warm water (without over wetting). Blot up water. Once again apply clean warm water. Blot up water. Repeat until all detergent is removed. Detergent residue accelerates re-soiling!
5. Absorb remaining moisture with layers of white paper towels weighted down overnight with a non-staining glass or ceramic object.
6. When completely dry, vacuum or brush the pile to restore texture. After drying, if the stain reappears, it may be because some of the stain remained deep in the pile and has "wicked" up to the surface. If so, repeat steps 3 to 6. If the stain remains, Call New Life Carpet & Furniture Cleaning at 717-3022.

## **Complex**

- A. Follow 1. Then apply "Spot Out" from New Life Carpet & Furniture Cleaning. Follow instructions and precautions on container. Then follow Steps 2-6.
- B. Follow 1-3. Then apply solution of clear, white, non-suds ammonia (2 tbs. to 1 qt. water). Blot with clean white cloth or paper towels. Repeat 3. Then 4-6
- C. Follow 1-4. Then apply solution of white vinegar (2 tbs. vinegar to 1 qt. water). Blot with clean white cloth or paper towels. Repeat 3 then 4-6
- D. Follow 1-3. Then apply solution of white vinegar (2tbs. to 1 qt. water) and blot. Next apply solution of clear, white, non-suds ammonia (2 tbs. to 1 qt. water) and blot. Repeat 3. Then 4-6.
- E. Freeze area with ice cubes. Shatter solid mass with blunt instrument. Vacuum up pieces. Follow 3-6.
- F. Test nail polish remover on an obscure non-visible section of carpet to see if it removes color. If not, apply remover and blot. Repeat if necessary.
- G. Follow 1-4. If stain remains, apply "Spot Out" up to 5 drops per sq. inch. Repeat 3 & 4. Then 5 & 6.
- H. Vacuum thoroughly. If needed, follow 1-6. Note: if these procedures do not work for you, consult New Life Carpet & Furniture Cleaning at 717-3022.

## **Disclaimer:**

**IMPORTANT:** Read the following information carefully before attempting the spotting procedures described in this guide.

**Maintenance:** Proper maintenance of your carpet will extend its useful life and help retain its fresh appearance longer. You should vacuum properly to remove dry particulate soils (which are the major contributor to premature wear), promptly address all spills before they become stains and provide long-term care with professional deep cleaning.

**Regular Cleaning:** It is essential that you vacuum regularly with a strong, well-functioning vacuum cleaner. A good vacuum cleaner features high-efficiency filtration (HEPA). Correct brush height is necessary to spread the fibers to remove embedded soils. Rental machines (Rug Doctor) and personally owned machines (Bissell, Little Green Steam Machine) are acceptable for use in rinsing spots and spills but should never be thought of as a replacement for periodic professional cleaning.

**Protecting Against Permanent Stains:** Most of today's carpet is treated with Scotchguard, Teflon or a similar product to resist soil and stains. However, no carpet is entirely stain-proof. Many fiber manufacturers provide toll-free help for cleaning assistance (consult your warranty) or contact our company. Reapplication of the protection is recommended to restore the fiber to the condition the manufacturer intended. Many warranties are voided without reapplication of the protection.

On stain-resistant finishes, a spill on the fiber's surface, will temporarily remain on the surface without soaking in, giving you some time to absorb the liquid and use spot removal techniques before the spill has a chance to penetrate the fibers and cause permanent damage. The longer you leave the spill unattended, the more difficult it will be to remove.

Use the following spot removal chart to select a cleaning agent for emergency spot removal for different substances: Many spots require more than one cleaning agent/method. Continue using the first method until there is no longer a transfer of spot to the cleaning cloth. Then try the second method suggested, then the third, and fourth, etc. until the spot is successfully removed. Pretest the cleaning agent in a small, inconspicuous area to ensure that the solution will not damage the carpet or its dyes. With a clean, white, absorbent cloth, gently work in the cleaning agent from the edges of the spot to the center. Never from the center out or you risk spreading the spot. Do not vigorously scrub, gently blot. Thoroughly blot and repeat until the spot no longer transfers to the cleaning cloth. Use clean lukewarm tap water to remove any remaining residue. Absorb remaining moisture with an absorbent cloth. Drying can be accelerated by air movement (Fans, dehumidifiers, heating/air-conditioning, open windows) When completely dry, brush or vacuum the pile to restore body/texture.

Due to the wide variety of spotting agents and the fibers they are used on we can assume no responsibility for any damage occurring. Always proceed with caution and only after pre-testing each cleaning agent.

**Any questions or concerns, please contact New Life Carpet & Furniture Cleaning at 717-3022**