

Carpet Care and Stain Checklist

For Ottawa homes and workplaces. Print it, keep it near the vacuum, and tick things off.

Before a professional carpet clean

No pre-cleaning is required. The visit goes smoothly when the scope is clear.

- ☐ List the rooms, stairs and area rugs to be cleaned.
- ☐ Note the fibre if you know it: nylon, polyester, wool or olefin. Wool has its own care rules.
- ☐ Point out every stain or odour that matters, and roughly how long it has been there.
- ☐ Move small furniture and loose items; flag the heavy pieces that stay in place.
- ☐ Clear the paths between rooms and to the door for the hose and equipment.
- ☐ Ask which method will be used and what drying time to expect.
- ☐ Plan where pets and children will be while the carpet dries.

Stain first aid: the first ten minutes

Time is the biggest enemy of a stain. Move quickly, do not panic, and do not scrub.

- ☐ Blot, never rub. Press a clean white cloth down and lift the liquid up.
- ☐ Keep blotting until the cloth comes away clean, then rinse with cool water and blot dry.
- ☐ Coffee, tea or juice: cool water and a little dish soap on a fresh spill.
- ☐ Pet accident: remove any solids, blot, then use cold water first. Heat sets the proteins.
- ☐ Then apply an enzymatic cleaner made for pet stains and let it dwell for the time on the label.
- ☐ Sugary spills leave a residue that attracts more soil. Rinse the spot after blotting.
- ☐ A musty smell means moisture may have reached the backing. Mention it at the quote instead of masking it.
- ☐ Old or deeply set stains may not lift completely. Name them when you ask for a quote.

Care between professional cleans

The carpet stays cleaner longer when the work between visits is steady, and most of it is simple.

- ☐ Vacuum the traffic paths, entry mats and stairs most often; quieter rooms less often.
- ☐ Keep a good mat at every outside door. In winter it catches salt, sand and meltwater before the carpet does.
- ☐ Boots off at the door through the salt season.
- ☐ Deal with spills the same day.
- ☐ Give high-traffic areas extra attention between deep cleans.
- ☐ Let air move: open windows or run a fan when the air is stale. Carpet holds what settles on it.

Drying day: after the clean

Hot water extraction takes several hours to dry; low-moisture methods dry faster.

- ☐ Keep the air moving with open windows or fans until the carpet is fully dry.
- ☐ Keep pets, children and street shoes off the carpet until it is dry.
- ☐ Let the carpet dry before furniture goes back onto it.
- ☐ A musty smell while drying means not enough ventilation. Add airflow.
- ☐ Write down the date of the clean and how it went. The first clean sets the rhythm for the next.

A simple rhythm

How often depends on traffic, pets and household habits.

- ☐ Entries, hallways and stairs need attention most often.
- ☐ A busy home with pets may need a deep clean a couple of times a year.
- ☐ Many Ottawa homes clean carpets seasonally: the end of the salt season and the end of summer are natural moments.
- ☐ Quieter bedrooms and basements can run on a lighter schedule.
- ☐ Offices, storefronts and waiting rooms do best on a scheduled program, reception areas first.