



## MAINTENANCE OF SHAW INDOOR - OUTDOOR CARPETS

Shaw Indoor-Outdoor Carpets are quality engineered to provide a long useful life for their intended applications in both indoor and outdoor environments. Shaw Needlebond and Tufted Turf Carpets offer many advantages over other flooring systems, such as reduced fatigue, sound absorption, and aesthetic value in high profile areas of pools, patios, porches, marinas, boat docks, sun rooms, playrooms, basements, walkways, golf facilities, restaurants, retailers, etc.

### INDOOR CARPETS

A comprehensive carpet care program consists of four elements:

- \* Reduction of soil
- \* Removal of spots and spills
- \* Removal of dry soil
- \* Cleaning by hot water extraction

**REDUCTION OF SOIL** - One of the most critical aspects of preventative maintenance is to keep outside areas maintained by using walk-off mats and keeping sidewalks, parking lots, and driveways clean.

**REMOVAL OF DRY SOIL** - Vacuuming is the most significant element in the maintenance of carpets. Daily maintenance is recommended for high traffic and soiled areas. Vacuums should have certification in The Carpet and Rug Institute ([www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org)) Seal of Approval/Green Label Vacuum Cleaner Program.

**SPOT AND SPILL REMOVAL** - **General Instructions:** Scoop up any solids gently with a spoon or dull knife. Absorb wet spills as quickly as possible by blotting with white paper or cloth towels. When blotting, work from the outer edge in toward the center of the spot to avoid spreading the spill and enlarging the problem.

**Shaw's R2x and R2xtra Stain and Soil Remover Products (certified in CRI's certification program for cleaning products) are recommended for all spots and spills not requiring a solvent based cleaner for oils and greases. Additional spot removal products certified in the CRI Seal of Approval Program can be found at [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org).**

### General Spot Removal Procedures:

**A. WATER SOLUBLE STAINS** - Absorb as much as possible with white towels. Blot the affected area with more towels dampened with cool water until no more color transfers to the towels. If any of the stain remains, use a detergent solution of 1/2 teaspoon (no more) of **CLEAR** liquid hand dishwashing detergent (do not use those containing lanolin or hand lotions) to a quart of water in a clean spray bottle.

Spray lightly onto the spot and blot repeatedly with white towels. **Rinse thoroughly** by spraying with clean water, and then blot or extract. Do not use too much detergent because the residue will contribute to rapid resoiling.

**A-1.** Either: apply a white vinegar solution (one part white vinegar to one part water) to a white towel and blot or spray onto spot. Continue as in "A" or use a slightly acidic spotter made for coffee, tea and other tannin stains rather than the detergent.

**A-2.** Either: apply a solution of household ammonia (one tablespoon of ammonia to one cup water) to a white towel and blot or spray onto spot. Continue as in "A" or use an alkaline spotter made for removing blood and protein stains rather than the detergent.

**B. GREASE** - Blot as much as possible with white towels. Apply a solvent designed for grease removal to a towel and blot. **Use sparingly and do not pour or spray directly** on the carpet pile as damage to the backing or adhesive underneath may result. Use the towels to transport the solvent to the carpet. Repeat until no more color transfers to the towel. Protective gloves should be worn because the solvent will quickly remove oils from the skin and may result in irritation. Provide adequate ventilation and **do not use flammable solvents!** Rinse thoroughly by spraying with clean water, and then blot or extract. If needed, continue with procedures in "A".

**C. FREEZE** areas with chewing gum and candle wax with ice or a commercially available product in an aerosol can. Shatter with a blunt object and vacuum before the chips soften. Follow up with solvent as in "B". A gel solvent is also recommended.

**D. Specialty spotting products are available from the cleaning industry suppliers to remove difficult stains such as food dyes, betadine, mustard, etc. Contact Technical Services through the Information Center at 800-441-7429.**

**RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES BY STAIN TYPE**

Adhesive, carpet	B, A,		
Alcoholic Beverages	A	Grease, Auto	B
Asphalt	B	Food	A
Beer	A	Ink, Ballpoint	B
Blood, wet	A	Permanent	B, D
Dry	A-2	Washable	A
Butter	B	Lipstick	B
Chewing Gum	C	Milk	A
Chocolate	A-2	Mustard	A, D
Coffee	A-1, D	Nail Polish	PolishRemover
Cola Drinks	A		
Cosmetics	B, A, D	Paint, Latex, Wet	A
Crayon	B	Latex, Dry	B
Deicer, Salt	Vacuum, A	Oil	B
Excrement	A	Tea	A-1, D
Food Dyes	A, D	Toner, Copier	Vacuum, A
Furniture Polish	A, B	Unknown	B, A
		Urine	A-1
		Vomit	A-1
		Wax	C
		Wine	A-2

**CLEANING INDOOR CARPETS-** Even with thorough vacuuming, cleaning is necessary to remove the oily type material. In order to maintain an acceptable appearance, the carpet must be cleaned on a periodic basis. The frequency of cleaning must be adjusted to the rate at which soil accumulates. A number of cleaning systems are available; their effectiveness varies widely. When choosing the cleaning system and cleaning agent, the important considerations are: 1) it must clean effectively with no optical brighteners, 2) it must not damage the carpet, and 3) it must not leave residues from cleaning agents that attract soil. Also fans or air movers are recommended to expedite drying times. **Shaw's recommendation of the Hot Water Extraction system is based on significant laboratory work and many years of experience in the field. A list of cleaning products that have been tested and certified in the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Seal of Approval Programs may be found at [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org).**

#### Recommended Minimum Maintenance Frequency

<u>Traffic</u>	<u>Vacuum</u>	<u>Spot Clean</u>	<u>Hot Water Extraction/Year</u>
Light	Biweekly	Daily	Annually
Medium	Daily	Daily	Biannually
Heavy	Daily	Daily	Quarterly

**If a professional carpet cleaner is needed, contact the national referral service - The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning & Restoration Certification (IICRC) at 800-835-4624.**

## Outdoor Carpets

Periodic Do-It-Yourself cleaning of outdoor carpets include sweeping, using air blowers, and rinsing with water to remove soil. The removal of excess water by using extractors, wet/dry shop-vacs, and air movers is recommended to expedite drying times. Sand and dried soil particles can cause a premature abrasive wear appearance. Keep all carpets clean and dry to maintain appearance and performance levels. Vacuums should have certification in The Carpet and Rug Institute ([www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org)) Seal of Approval/Green Label Vacuum Cleaner Program.

Another stubborn problem for indoor and outdoor carpets is the salt or deicer from snow melt that accumulates in the carpet over winter. Salt pulls moisture from the air and prevents the carpet from drying as quickly as it normally would. Damp carpet acts like a wet sponge to clean shoes and collect soil faster. The resulting black discoloration in the traffic lanes requires pretreatment with a traffic lane cleaner to break down the soiling and the use of hot, not warm, water to dissolve and remove the salt and soil. Residue from snow melt can cause possible damage.

Carpets that are kept clean and dry will not support mold growth. The existence of moisture and organic material like soil provide a source for mold growth. Removal of the contaminant from the carpet by cleaning is the preferred method for mold remediation and mold control, rather than using chemicals or other treatments on the carpets. Contact the IICRC at 800-835-4624 for cleaning firms certified in mold remediation, if necessary.

Recommended cleaning products and extraction equipment can be located at [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org).

**Contact Shaw's Information Center at 800-441-7429 for additional assistance.**

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