

# Carpet Cleaning Fact Sheet



## INCLUDES A-Z STAIN REMOVAL GUIDE

### 1. Introduction

Clean carpets are vital for children's health and well-being in Childcare Centres. Proper cleaning practices contribute to a hygienic environment, reducing the risk of infection and promoting a healthy space for children to play and learn.

### 2. Daily Cleaning

#### Vacuuming

Daily vacuuming with a HEPA-filter vacuum is crucial for removing dirt, dust, allergens, and bacteria from carpets, preventing harmful substance build-up.

#### Spot Cleaning

Quick action is vital to prevent stains from setting, especially in a Childcare setting, ensuring cleanliness. Promptly addressing spills helps maintain carpet appearance and longevity.

Effective spot cleaning instructions:

- Act swiftly to tackle spills and stains to prevent permanent damage.
- Blot with a clean cloth instead of rubbing.
- Use suitable cleaning products, follow instructions, and first test on a small area for discoloration.
- Apply the cleaner, let it sit, then blot gently from the outside inward.
- Rinse with clean water, blot to remove moisture, and speed up drying with a fan or open windows.

### 3. Comprehensive Disinfection

#### Preparation

Begin by removing any visible debris and dirt from the carpets and mats. This allows disinfectant to penetrate deep into the fibres without obstruction.

#### Deep Cleaning

Use a steam cleaner to perform a deep clean. The high temperature of the steam is effective in killing viruses and bacteria. Cover all areas meticulously.

#### Disinfecting Solution

Choose a powerful disinfectant specifically for carpets and mats that is safe for use in Childcare environments. Apply the solution evenly across the carpet and mats, ensuring it reaches deep into the fibres. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct dilution and application.

#### Dwell Time

Allow the disinfectant to sit for the recommended amount of time to maximize its effectiveness. This is crucial for killing all pathogens.

#### Rinsing

If the disinfectant requires rinsing, use clean water to remove any residue. This prevents potential irritants from being left behind.

#### Drying

Ensure that the carpets and mats are completely dry before allowing children to use the area again. Use fans or dehumidifiers to speed up the drying process if necessary.



# Carpet Cleaning Fact Sheet



## PAGE 2

### 4. Deep Cleaning Methods

#### Frequency

Childcare carpets and mats should be cleaned through extraction or steam methods every 6 months, or more frequently if heavily soiled. Regular deep cleaning helps maintain a healthy environment by preventing dust, allergens, and bacteria buildup.

#### Methods:

Methods of carpet cleaning include:

- **Extraction:** Uses water and cleaning agents to penetrate fibres and remove dirt and stains. It's effective for deep cleaning. Even more effective when used in conjunction with mechanical scrubbing and chemical pretreatment
- **Steam Cleaning:** Uses steam to penetrate fibres and removes bacteria and viruses. Not as effective as extraction cleaning for stains.
- **Dry Cleaning:** Utilizes chemical solutions with minimal moisture for quicker drying and immediate use, making it convenient for areas needing a fast turnaround. Less intensive than steam cleaning.

### 5. Safe Carpet Cleaning

#### Product Selection

When selecting carpet cleaning products, focus on safe, non-toxic, child-friendly options free from harsh chemicals and fragrances to prevent allergies and respiratory issues. Eco-friendly solutions are effective and gentle; choose products approved for childcare that meet safety standards and check labels for reputable certifications.

#### Disposal

Proper disposal of cleaning materials is essential for a healthy environment in childcare centers.

- **Separate Contaminated Waste**
- **Use designated bins to prevent cross-contamination.**
- **Sealed Containers and Bags.** Store waste in leak-proof containers to contain germs.
- **Regularly empty bins to reduce virus and bacteria buildup.**

#### Hygiene Practices

Staff should wear gloves when handling waste and wash their hands afterward.

#### Storage

Safe storage of cleaning supplies is crucial for children's safety.

- **Store supplies in locked cabinets inaccessible to children.**
- **Train staff on safe storage practices and risks.**
- **Establish clear emergency procedures for accidental exposure and ensure staff are trained in first aid.**

### 6. Handling Spills and Stains on carpets and mats

#### Immediate Action

To prevent permanent stains on carpets and mats, act quickly by blotting spills:

- **Use a clean, dry cloth to gently blot, avoiding rubbing.**
- **Apply an appropriate stain remover based on the spill type: water-based for liquids, enzyme cleaners for food.**

Follow instructions, continue blotting, rinse with clean water, and ensure thorough drying to prevent mildew and odors.



### 7. Stain Removal Guide

Stains are as distinctive as your childcare carpets and mats. This is merely a guide, and results may differ. Test in an inconspicuous area and follow the manufacturer's guidelines, using PPE where appropriate. Remove as much of the stain as possible. Professional carpet cleaning may be required to remove stains, odours, and bacterial growth.

#### Blood Stains

Blood stains should be treated promptly with cold water, as hot water can set the stain. Blot the area with a clean cloth soaked in cold water. Apply a cleaner designed for protein-based stains like blood. Blot and rinse thoroughly, ensuring the area is completely dry afterward.

#### Crayon Stains

Crayon stains can be challenging due to their waxy nature. Start by scraping off any solid crayon particles with a scraper or spoon. Place a paper towel over the stain and run a warm iron over it to melt the wax, allowing the paper towel to absorb it. Use a carpet cleaner designed to remove wax stains and blot the area. Rinse with clean water and dry thoroughly.

#### Food Stains

Start by scraping off any solid particles with a scraper or spoon. Blot liquid stains with a clean cloth or paper towel. Apply a carpet cleaner designed for food stains, preferably an enzyme-based cleaner that can break down organic matter. Blot the area again and rinse thoroughly with clean water.

#### Glue Stains

Glue stains can be sticky and stubborn. Begin by scraping off any excess glue with a scraper. Apply a solvent suitable for the type of glue, such as acetone for super glue or vinegar for white glue. Blot the area to absorb the dissolved glue. Rinse with clean water and ensure thorough drying to avoid any residue. For more challenging glue stains, consider using a specialised carpet glue remover that is safe for fabrics.

#### Liquid Stains

For liquid spills, the initial blotting is crucial to absorb as much liquid as possible. Use a cleaner designed for water-based stains and follow up with blotting and rinsing. Dry the area completely to prevent mould and odours.

#### Marker Stains

Permanent and washable markers require different approaches. For washable markers, blot the stain with a clean cloth and apply a mild dish soap solution. For permanent markers, use rubbing alcohol or a specialised marker remover. Blot the area and rinse with clean water. Dry completely to prevent any residual odours or marks.

#### Paint Stains

For paint stains, act quickly before the paint dries. Use a scraper to lift off any excess paint. Blot the stain gently with a clean cloth or paper towel to absorb as much paint as possible. Apply a paint remover suitable for carpets, following the manufacturer's instructions. Gently blot the area again and rinse with clean water. Ensure the carpet is thoroughly dried.





# Carpet Cleaning Fact Sheet

## PAGE 4

### 7. Specific Stains

#### Poo Stains

Remove solid waste carefully using gloves and a blunt tool. Blot the area to absorb any remaining liquid. Apply a strong enzyme cleaner and allow it to sit for the recommended time to break down organic matter. Blot, rinse with water, and ensure thorough drying.

#### Urine - Wee Stains

Urine stains require immediate attention to prevent odour and bacterial growth. Blot the area to remove excess liquid, then apply an enzyme cleaner to break down the proteins in the urine. Blot and rinse with clean water. For persistent odour, use a specialised odour neutraliser.

### 8. Training and Supervision

Training staff is crucial for maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene of your Childcare Centre carpets and mats. Staff should be educated on proper cleaning techniques for various stains and safe product handling to protect children and the environment. Regular training sessions, including hands-on demonstrations, can enhance staff proficiency in stain removal and carpet maintenance. Incorporating these practices into ongoing professional development ensures a clean and healthy space for children to thrive.

### 9. Documentation

#### Cleaning Schedule

Childcare Centres should maintain a detailed cleaning schedule that includes daily, weekly, and monthly tasks to ensure all cleaning activities are addressed. This systematic approach helps keep carpets and mats clean and identifies areas needing extra attention. A well-documented schedule is essential for maintaining hygiene and ensuring a safe environment for children.

#### Record Keeping

Record keeping in Childcare Centres helps track cleaning effectiveness and frequency, ensuring thorough maintenance of carpets and mats. It aids in identifying recurring issues, supports inspections or audits to demonstrate hygiene standards, and supports future cleaning schedules and methods through regular reviews.



**07 3041 4132**

**info@hpro.com.au**

