

CARE GUIDELINES: POLYPROPYLENE

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLYPROPYLENE

Solution-Dyed: Polypropylene is solution dyed during the manufacturing process so its colors are permanent.

Stain Resistant: Due to its non-absorbent nature including alkalies and acids, it is very difficult to stain. Aggressive cleaners including oxidizers can be used for cleaning.

Oleophilic: Polypropylene is an oleophilic fiber, attracting oily substances and oily soils. Therefore, organic solvents such as citrus solve adversely affect it. Do not use solvents containing oils for cleaning. Its oleophilic nature presents the following cleaning challenges outlined below.

Wick-back: When a water-based cleaning solution is applied to a polypropylene carpet, it does not absorb the solution and therefore allows more of the cleaning solution to flow into the backing. Any soiled solution in a polypropylene carpet, which is not recovered by the cleaning system, will then work its way back to the surface to evaporate. As a result, water-soluble surfactants, detergents or additives as well as residual soils will be carried to the surface as well. This can cause a variety of streaking, yellowing and browning effects, and recurring spots which is more commonly referred to as *wick-back*.

Poor Resilience: Even though polypropylenes are strong and abrasion resistant, they do have issues with resiliency and will tend to mat and crush particularly in high-traffic areas. Crushed and matted polypropylene carpets are not restorable. Please consider traffic volume and foot traffic of your space before specifying any polypropylene installation.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Maintaining your quality purchase will repay you by keeping its beauty for many years.

- Frequent vacuuming is a carpet's best friend. In most cases, a suction only canister vacuum is best to prevent excess pilling and fuzzing. However, if this type is not available, set vacuum so that the brush is furthest away from the surface of the carpet.
- Remove spills immediately. Vacuum up dry soils.
- For soils and oils, suspend by using a prespray that is specially formulated to clean polypropylenes. *Polybreak* is a special blend of solvents and emulsifiers designed to lift oily soils from polypropylene without causing re-soiling.

- Remove soils and neutralize. Once the soil has been suspended it must be physically removed. The use of an acid or conditioning rinse is effective in removing suspended soils whilst leaving the carpet in a neutral or slightly acidic condition. Acid rinsing will help prevent the browning or wick-back that is commonly associated with polypropylene carpets. It also prepares the carpet for the application of a protector.
- Dry the carpet as quickly as possible. Where there has been a history of browning or wick-back a dry pass over the cleaned area with a cotton bonnet (replacing the pads often) is advisable. Use your grandi-groom, a tool used to agitate and loosen embedded dirt that will also rake the pile to set the nap of the carpet to an even texture. This will help considerably to speed drying times. Ventilate the room as best as possible by opening the windows, turning fans and HVAC systems on. Use air movers and blowers if possible to speed up the drying process.
- It is a widely held belief that due to the stain resistant properties of polypropylene carpet there is no need to apply a carpet protector. Carpet protectors keep those oily soils on the surface where they belong. Future cleaning will be much easier and more effective.
- Spot Cleaning Tip: When asked to remove an oil-based stain, try not to use your spotting machine. Simply blot the stain with a white towel dipped in Acetone. (Polypropylene will stand up to substantial abrasion compared with wool or nylon). If there is a potential for wicking, pack the stain in a poultice of Chemspec Absorb-A-Stain.
- Professionally clean annually. Do not apply stain repellent treatments that contain silicone because they tend to accelerate carpet soiling.
- Keep doormats clean. Exercise preventative maintenance by placing absorbent mats at the most frequently used entrances to your home. Change or launder when these mats become soiled.
- The vacuum cleaner dust bag should be changed when half full.
- Filters in your heating and air conditioning systems should be changed regularly.