

34 'Insider Tips' To Keep Your Home Looking Great Between Cleanings...

Referral has recently performed our cleaning services in your home. All the spots that have been bothering you for the past few months are now gone. Now the question, is how do you keep them that way?

Here are a few tips you can use year round to prolong the life and beauty of your flooring, fabric and furnishings investment and help keep your home looking as fresh and clean as the day we professionally cleaned it.

14 Tips To Keep Your Carpet Fluffy, Soft and Clean

1. **Vacuum, Vacuum, Vacuum.** As a general rule vacuum traffic areas 3 to 5 times per week. This will prevent dirt from settling into the carpet. Walking on dirt and grit that has settled to the base of the fibers causes an abrasive action, which results in the appearance of traffic lanes and worn areas.
2. **Clean up spills immediately,** before they become permanent stains. You may refer to our spotting guide online, which can be found at www.ReferralCarpetCare.com. This will provide you with directions on how to proceed in removing spills. You may also call us at 483-4383 and we will give you assistance on how to properly remove the spill. You can also call The Scotchgard Service Center at 1-800-433-3296 at any time for expert advice over the phone on stain removal free of charge!
3. **Have your carpet professionally cleaned on a regular basis.** Carpet Manufacturers recommend professional cleaning at least every 6-18 months depending on the amount of "traffic" in the house. (i.e. kids, pets, shoes, etc.) Clean high traffic areas about twice as often as other areas.
4. **Reapply Scotchgard® Carpet Protector** each time the carpet is cleaned to keep stains from setting in and the soil from grinding in. More information can be found on our website.
5. **Place walk off mats** or bound remnants on top of the carpet at high wear areas, such as in front of the sofa or chairs and entry/exit points from your home to absorb soil and moisture. Clean mats on a regular basis so they don't become sources of soil themselves. Be sure to check area rugs for colorfastness before placing them on carpet because the color in some rugs may bleed through or rubber back rugs can discolor the carpet below.
6. **Place smooth plastic chair mats** to help prevent carpet delamination and excessive wear.
7. **Rearrange furniture** to change the flow of traffic through a room.
8. **Remove your shoes** when you enter your home.
9. **Control** the circulation and disposal of **food and drink** through the home.
10. **Reduce periods of direct sunlight to prevent color fading.** Use blinds and shades or window tinting.
11. **Use a powerful upright vacuum** with a beater brush and excellent filtration system for carpets. Be sure to change the disposable bag often to ensure efficient operation.
12. **Take your vacuum in for a checkup** at the vacuum repair shop annually to keep it operating at peak performance. Visit or call Service All Vacuums at 10202 Coldwater Rd 482-2258 or at 3211 East State 483-8421. Mention our company and present this page to get a vacuum tune up for \$19.95
13. **Have your clothes dryer vent cleaned** by Kirt at Dusty Brothers. Mention our company for a FREE Inspection. Call him at 482-9991 or visit www.DustyBrothers.com
14. **Have your air ducts cleaned and also clean or change your furnace filter** to keep your indoor air clean. Call Fort Wayne's Duct Cleaning Specialist, Ken at Quality Air. Mention our company and save \$50.00. Call Ken at 492-4247 or visit him online at www.492-4air.com

Valuable Oriental Rug Care Tips

1. Download Referrals Free "Rug Owners Guide To Safe Rug Care and Cleaning" in our exclusive Members Only Section. Join at www.ReferralCarpetCare.com



6 Tips To Keep Your Upholstery Fresh

1. Vacuum dust & dirt from all fabric, cracks & crevasses so it does not cause abrasion to the fabric. Think of how much dust would accumulate on a table if it were never dusted. That same amount is on your sofa, too. You just can't see it.
2. Reapply fabric protection after professional cleaning.
3. Rotate all loose cushions frequently to assure even wear.
4. Protect your upholstery from the sun. Ultraviolet light can cause deterioration or fading.
5. Keep pets off of furniture. Pet's body oils rub off and are very difficult to remove.
6. Use caution with clothing such as Blue Jeans. Fabric dyes can transfer onto upholstered furniture.

12 Tips To Spotless Ceramic Tile & Grout

1. Purchase a good quality dust mop and sweep your hard surface floors daily.
2. Dirt, mud, grit and sand can get ground into the tile and grout from heavy foot traffic. This abrasion will cause damage.
3. Do protect floor surfaces with non-slip mats or area rugs. Dirt collecting carpet mats should be placed in frequently used entrances and shaken out weekly. Be sure the underside of the mat has a non slip surface. It is recommended that they are taken up and floors cleaned under them every month.
4. We do not recommend the use of floor waxes as they can be difficult to remove from ceramic tile floors. As long as your floor is properly sealed and maintained, you should find no need for these products.
5. Do not use vacuum cleaners that are worn. The metal or plastic attachments or the wheels may scratch the surface.

Many tile cleaners are acid based and their use should be limited. Always read the manufacturer's directions. All acids, no matter how weak, will etch marble surfaces. Don't use vinegar, lemon juice or other cleaners containing acids on marble, limestone, travertine or onyx surfaces. In addition, avoid any cleaner that contains harsh abrasives.

6. Spot removal procedures should be expedited as soon as accidents occur.
7. After performing a wet maintenance, open windows or utilize fans to get air circulating. The faster it dries the better the results and less chance for rapid re-soiling.
8. Chairs and tables in hard surface areas could cause serious damage to floors if legs and corners are not protected. Teflon or felt can be used to prevent abrasive damage caused by the furniture.
9. When snow and ice are present, be sure to leave shoes that may have salt or liquid deicer on them at the door. Chemicals used in these products cause rapid and irreversible damage.
10. Dry sand on hard surfaces should be removed as soon as noticed. Wear patterns and scratches will dull your floor and reduce enhancement efforts.
11. Clean and rinse your hard surfaces often, once per month in low traffic areas and at least weekly in high traffic or kitchen areas. Rinse with plain water unless using a recommended cleaner / protector product.

Hundreds Of Tips On How To Prevent Water Damage In Your Home

1. Find links in our Exclusive Members Only section of our website with hundreds of tips for preventing water damage and keeping your home safe, dry and healthy. Visit www.ReferralCarpetCare.com to join.

Don't forget to visit us online for more information at www.ReferralCarpetCare.com

Join Referrals Exclusive Members Only Section where you will find
1-Insider Tips on how to care for your flooring, fabric and furnishings
2- A Spotting Guide 3- A Oriental Rug Care Guide 4- Vacuuming Secrets
5- How to prevent water damage

