

Carpet Tile Maintenance Guide



A needed conversation about cleaning.

'Do I need to maintain my new floors?'

Yes preventative maintenance is easier and more economical than the cleaning of soiled carpet. The maintenance of carpet supplied by Icon Modular shall be performed in accordance with Australian/ New Zealand Standard 3733:1995 'Textile floor coverings - Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting' (AS/NZS 3733). This Standard provides detailed information on a wide variety of cleaning methods and equipment, including spot and stain removal. It provides a guide to planning a maintenance program and cautions against damage from improper cleaning methods and chemicals.

Your new Icon Modular Carpet Tile is an investment in your office or home micro environment, and to keep this environment to the manner and appearance that is aesthetically pleasing for you and fellow occupants, a maintenance program is required.

A lack of maintenance will allow dirt to build up into the fibre of the carpet and makes it harder to remove in the future. This will have a dramatic detraction from the general performance, appearance and longevity of the textile product you are using to enhance your surrounds.

'How do I get started? I want to feel comfortable in my environment!'

Well you actually get started with your colour selection, and think again, about your environment and the usage of your floors. So for example if you are carpeting the offices leading in from a factory floor or straight of the street a light colour is not acceptable, yet an office floor on the 5th floor of an office building will handle lighter colours as you are not trafficking dirt and grime from outside to the same extent. Colour, pattern and design are a major consideration to the environment you are in.

As a rule of thumb, mid to dark colours hide soiling better than light and bright colours between maintenance periods. To the same extent patterned tiles as opposed to plain tiles also assist in camouflaging of soiling. (Especially in heavily trafficked areas)

Ok, my colour, pattern and design sorted. Where do I go from here?'

So now let's think about how we keep the dirt from entering my space. One of the most efficient ways to reduce carpet damage is dirt control matting placed at strategic entry points such as.

- All entries
- Lift and stairwell entries
- Vending machines
- High spillage areas (e.g. dining rooms)

Mats at least six footsteps or approximately five metres from the entrance of a commercial installation will trap approximately 80 percent of soil before it gets transferred onto the carpet.

Maintenance of soil control matting is as important as carpet maintenance. Mats should be cleaned regularly as part of programmed maintenance and replaced once soiled. The less dirt that traffics in makes maintenance much easier and less frequent and helps to hold up the appearance of your floorcovering.

'Matting, noted that. '

The next thing we think about is the usage of our floors. The heavier the traffic the more extensive the maintenance, so for example, a board room, meeting room or vacant office wouldn't need as much maintenance as say your main corridor thoroughfare. Similarly your bedroom would be less maintenance than your living room.

The best way to keep the appearance is regular vacuuming to remove the dirt before it builds up. This should be done once or twice a week depending on your traffic and environment. A Commercial canister-type vacuum with power head containing a rotating cylindrical brush, powered by an electric motor is the most appropriate and effective machine.

The motorized powerhead (or power nozzle) actually has a separate motor in the head which spins the round brushes in the head around very fast, allowing it to get deep within the carpet pile to suck up dust and debris, which may otherwise be left in the carpet.

This can significantly extend the life of your carpet, dust deep in a pile can have a cutting action which wears away at the fibers, eventually causing them to shred and come loose from the carpet base.

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'Importance of vacuuming, got it, what about spills and stains?'

Ok, stains and spills, always cause a problem. There are some many items that accidentally find their way to your floorcovering, including coffee, tea, food items, makeup, tomato sauce, wine, ink, adhesives, copier toner and juice to name a few.

The cleaning process here is spot cleaning which involves the use of chemical products purpose made for carpet cleaning. We recommend Peerless JAL Pty Ltd Carpet Spotter & Deodoriser. Very important that you follow their instructions and use, and which products are suitable for your stain.

Early attention to stain removal is important, the earlier treated the easier stain is to remove.

Exercise extreme caution with bleaches, tile cleaners, mildew removers, oven cleaners, drain openers, plant food and the like. They are strong chemicals that can permanently discolour or dissolve carpet fibres. Refer AS/NZS 3733 for guidance. It is recommended that any chemicals being used on the carpet be pre-tested on an inconspicuous area prior to use.

'What other maintenance options do I have?'

Depending on how heavy the traffic is you may need to do a hot water and extraction clean of your floors which would normally happen annually. This should bring your floor back to a clean restored finish.

Hot water injection and extraction (Annually)

Hot Water Injection and Extraction involves a pre-spraying of an approved chemical into the carpet and then extracting it with clean hot water using approved equipment and methods. With Restorative cleaning, it is recommended that a trained and accredited Carpet Cleaning Technician perform this task. Fans should be used to increase air flow to assist the drying process. It is important not to track the floor until completely dry.

'All good, however there is just a couple of stains I can't remove'

Not a worry, your original choice of Modular Carpet means it is a simple process of replacing three or four damaged tiles. The adhesive used is a pressure sensitive glue that remains tacky throughout the life of the installation and all that is needed is to peel up the old tile and replace with a new tile.

That's the very reason it is important to get two or three spare boxes for minor spot replacement over the years of your floorcoverings' lifespan.

'Any other maintenance tips that can extend the life and appearance of the product'

Well yes, the only other thing to discuss is the effect of caster chairs. The product carries a caster chair warranty, but that is only applies to wear loss of the fibre on the surface of the tile, under normal conditions.

Caster Chairs are a very heavy wear point, which can flatten and wear the fibre in that general area of the chair use.

We recommend that you use of chair mats at this point which will extend the life, appearance and integrity of your installation.

Any other questions?

For all other questions not outlined in this guide please call 1800 247 636. ICON MODULAR reserves the right to update this document without prior notice. For the latest version please email us at admin@iconmodular.com.au or visit our website.

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