

# Carpet Cleaning & Maintenance Terms

<i>Acids</i>	A substance with a pH of less than 7, chemicals with a acid pH are sometimes used to remove rust stains & water deposit.
<i>Alkaline</i>	A substance with a pH of more than 7. Alkalines are good for cutting crease, coffee & tea.
<i>Antimicrobial</i>	A chemical treatment added to carpet to reduce the growth of common bacteria, fungi, yeast, mold and mildew.
<i>Antistatic</i>	The ability of a carpet system to dissipate an electrostatic charge before it reaches the threshold of human sensitivity.
<i>Butyl Cleaner</i>	A cleaner containing butyl cellulose, a glycol ether with excellent grease dissolving and cleaning properties.
<i>Defoamer</i>	When used, a substance which reduces foaming agents caused by agitation. Example includes organic phosphates and silicone fluids.
<i>Detergent</i>	A chemical used for cleaning that lowers surface tension and removes soils and grease by keeping them in suspension until both is rinsed away.
<i>Hard water</i>	Water containing a high mineral content. The higher the mineral content, the more it interferes with the effectiveness of a product's cleaning power.
<i>HEPA</i>	High Efficiency Particle Arrentance. It means that the filter through which air is passing has the ability to remove 99.9% of all particles down to .3 micron in size.
<i>Mildew</i>	Fungus growth that can occur on carpet fibers. Causes odor and fiber degradation.
<i>Moisture Regain</i>	The amount of moisture an oven-dry fiber will absorb when it is exposed to the atmosphere. Usually expressed in per cent at 70 degrees F, 65% RH. Typical values are: wool, 15%; nylon, 4%; polyester, 0.4%; olefin, 0 %
<i>Nap Finishing Brush</i>	Long handled, nylon bristled brush used to set carpet pile in one direction.
<i>Optical Brightener</i>	Optical whiteners or fluorescent whitening agents used in leaning process. Under the influence of Ultraviolet light, emit a visible blue-white light.
<i>PSI</i>	Pound per square inch. Measure used in determining solution pressure in steam carpet cleaning.
<i>Enzyme</i>	Micro-organisms which work to breakdown protein & oil into their basic form. Sensitive to changes in pH.

<i>pH</i>	An expression used to indicate the degree (not quantity) of acidity or alkalinity of a solution. The pH scale ranges from less than 1.0 to 14, with 7.0 being neutral. A pH of 1 expresses a very acidic condition, and a pH of 14 is highly alkaline.
<i>Pile Distortion</i>	When there is a loss of texture or pattern on the carpet, pre-spotting is done to remove stains or to pre-treat traffic lane areas.
<i>Pile Lay</i>	Direction taken by surface yarn during manufacture.
<i>Pile Lifter</i>	A heavy duty, reel-type vacuum that is used to loosen embedded soil and erect the carpet pile. Usually done before cleaning.
<i>Pre-Spotting</i>	Prior to the overall cleaning of the carpet, pre-spotting is done to remove stains or to pre-treat traffic lane areas.
<i>Residue</i>	Any material that is left in the carpet pile after it has been cleaned and vacuumed.
<i>Rust Remover</i>	Chemical applied to yarn surface for quick removal of rust or other iron related marks.
<i>Sequestrant</i>	A chemical agent that reduces water hardness by forming soluble compounds with calcium, magnesium and iron compounds
<i>Shag Rake</i>	A rake with plastic tines that is used to align or lift high pile shag after cleaning and yield improved appearance.
Shampoo	A high foam detergent preparation usually used for rotary brush cleaning.
Soil Retardant	An agent that is applied to the carpet to retard or decrease the rate of soiling.
Spotter	A stain removal agent.
Stain Repellent	An agent that is applied to the carpet's surface which primarily acts as a water repellent.
Solvent	Works by dissolving another substance into an evenly dispersed mixture.
Static Electricity	An electrical charge accumulated on an object. These charges are often and easily transferred from one object to another by direct contact.
Surface Lifter	Arrives on the carpet in various forms. Most surface litter should be removed with a parlor brush and dust pan before vacuuming.
Surfactant	A compound which decreases the surface tension of water.
Synthetic Fibers	Most carpet fibers being used today, in contrast to animal or vegetable fibers.

Traffic Lane Cleaner	A heavy-duty detergent specifically designed to pre-treat and disperse heavy accumulations of soil in the traffic lanes.
Traffic Lane paper	Paper, placed in high traffic areas, which must be opened to foot traffic while the carpet is still damp.
Wicking	When a spot is removed, the surface of the carpet may dry faster than the wet padding underneath resulting in a reappearance of the spot.