

## Silk, Bamboo and Viscose Cleaning Guide

Cleaning Silk, Bamboo and Viscose products should normally be left to a professional carpet cleaner, however, there are times when a quick response is needed and you need to clean the carpet yourself.

Silk, Bamboo and Viscose Carpets are known for their unique characteristics; therefore need extra care when cleaning which will help to keep it looking luxurious and shiny.

Most people assume that there are two kinds of fibres: natural ones, like cotton, wool and silk; and artificial ones synthesised out of petrochemicals like nylon and polyester. Viscose falls somewhere in between. The raw material for viscose is cellulose which is broken down either mechanically or chemically and reformed as fibres. Trees are 50% cellulose, cotton is 90% cellulose, so viscose is more accurately described as a natural, or recovered, fibre.

Rayon Viscose is typically made from a combination of natural fibres. Cotton viscose is made largely from cotton cellulose and bamboo viscose is made from bamboo cellulose. All these "viscose" yarns are cleaned and maintained in the same way

### Vacuuming

We recommend that vacuuming is carried out with a Cylinder Vacuum Cleaner without a beater bar. The brushes should be raised away from the surface of the pile and suction reduced to the minimum amount needed to remove the dust and dirt build up. To get the best results vacuum in the direction of the pile, this is to avoid pushing the dirt back into the fibres of the carpet.

Our recommendation would be that the carpet should be vacuumed twice a month to remove dirt; however vacuuming frequency should match traffic and soil conditions. The chart below suggests a vacuuming routine relative to 3 types of traffic conditions.

Amount of traffic	Estimated foot traffic/day	Upright Vacuuming Frequency
Moderate	Less than 300	Once a month
Heavy	300-800	Once a week
Extra-Heavy	800 or more	Once every 3 days

1. *Moderate commercial, areas that have limited traffic such as boardrooms, executive offices, and conference rooms. The estimated foot traffics per day are less than 300.*

2. *Heavy commercial is area that are used daily but do not have to withstand high volumes of traffic such as office, and administrative areas the estimated foot traffics per day are 300 to 800.*

3. *Extra-Heavy commercial, areas that are subjected to off the street traffic and the highest volume of food traffic include lobbies, airports, entryways, business lounges and main corridors. The estimate foot traffics per day are 800 or more.*

### Stain Removal Techniques

- Pre-test a hidden area
- Act quickly, treat spots quickly to prevent permanent stains
- DO NOT scrub Silk, Bamboo or Viscose carpet; it could warp the pile. Gently blot the soiled area, beginning from the edge and working your way in, using a white cloth or paper-towel to absorb liquids from spills. Dyes and Inks in coloured fabrics and papers can run and further damage your carpet.

### Do-it-yourself cleaning tips

**WATER:** Blot away with absorbent white paper towels until dry to the touch. Avoid walking on the area until it is bone dry.

### **Food and Beverages, Cosmetic Powders, Modelling Clay, Potting Soil and Skin Ointments**

- Vacuum dry spills thoroughly
- On wet spills, use ¼ teaspoon of mild liquid detergents for each cup of lukewarm water.
- Use a rounded spoon to lift semi-solid foods off the silk carpet; blot the spot until it has disappeared.

## **Red Wine or Dark Fruit & Vegetable Juices**

- Pour salt over spills of red wine, grape juice, or other dark liquids that have spilled onto the Silk, Bamboo or Viscose carpet. It will absorb the liquid like a sponge.
- Once the salt has done its job, use a rounded spoon to lift off the residue silk carpet, rinse with cold water and blot dry

## **Pet Messes, Perfume & Alkaline Spills**

- Use either a vinegar solution of 1 cup of white vinegar to 2 cups of water, or an ammonia solution of 1 teaspoon of household ammonia to 1 cup of water.
- Rinse well with cold water and blot dry

## **Paint, Oil & Grease**

- Remove paint, oil and grease from the Silk, Bamboo or Viscose carpet with nail polish remover; rinse well with cold water and blot dry.
- If nail polish remover is not available, use a spot removal or dry cleaning solvent or vinegar solution; again rinse well with cold water and blot dry.
- The ammonia solution listed under PET MESSES is another option for dealing with oil-based spills.
- Many of these solvents and solutions will leave the affected area more prone to dirt than the rest of the rug. Rinsing well with cold water and blotting help alleviate the problem.

## **Peroxide Bleach & Other Harsh Chemical Spills**

- Use cold water on the affected area and contact a professional rug cleaner.

Silk, Bamboo and Viscose fibre may be damaged by the high temperatures, pH (>7.5), sunlight. Please avoid excessive agitation. The fibres can be bleached some finishes, however are sensitive to chlorine bleach.

## **Other General Stain Cleaning information**

- Remove excess spillage with solids using a spoon, with liquid blot up by applying pressure with white paper-towels or tissue.
- Work from the outside towards the centre to avoid spreading the stain.
- Frequent vacuuming is the most effective way to dispose of dry soil particles (DO NOT sweep).
- Always pre-test spotters in an inconspicuous area of the carpet or an uninstalled piece of carpet.
- Hot liquid (tea, coffee etc.) must be attended to immediately. If allowed to cool or dry the stain will be almost impossible to remove
- If liquid spills have dried, gently remove the substance using a soft brush to break up any crusted material. Vacuum thoroughly to remove loosened particles.
- After the cleaning is completed, do not work on the carpet until dry.

## **Special Notes**

Since the nature of the yarn is less resilient, you may see the pile was pressed flat due to packing. It will be good and resilient if it is moist. Steaming or water top spraying is recommended. After that, leaving it for a while (let the pile absorb the water). Then vacuum without a brush and it will be ok. It is important not to walk on the carpet until it is completely dry, or this can lead to permanent damage of the fibres.

Professional Carpet Cleaners that we recommend;

\*bone-dry ([www.bone-dry.co.uk](http://www.bone-dry.co.uk))

\*Duo P Cleaning Powder

