

Compro News Letter

What is the best carpet cleaning method?

The carpet cleaning industry and the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification, recommends five carpet cleaning methods and the following describes each process.

Method #1 Steam Cleaning

Hot water extraction or steam cleaning method, is hot water at approximately 200 degrees Fahrenheit and under pressure, it creates a vapor or steam and that is why this method is so commonly called steam cleaning. The combination of pretreatments, agitation, and the hot water temperature (approx. 200 degrees Fahrenheit), soil is removed through deep extraction. Drying time is approximately 6 to 12 hours.

Advantages

- Cost effective based upon the results.
- Removes most stains deep soil and odors.

Disadvantages

- Takes approximately 6 to 12 hours to dry.
- Untrained technicians can cause structural damage to carpet or underpad.

Method # 2 Dry Foam Cleaning

Dry foam-cleaning uses a walk behind machine that has a revolving “Spindle” type brush that agitates the carpet fiber, while shampoo type foam washes the carpet. Behind the brush a vacuum system, extracts the soil and moisture.

Advantages

- Usually dries within one to two hours.
- Great for large commercial facilities with wide-open areas.

Disadvantages

- Leaves a soapy residue.
- Commercial machine is large and heavy.
- Residential machine has less power; corners, edges and stairs are hard to clean.

Method # 3 Dry Powder/absorbent Compound Cleaning

There are two types of dry powder cleaning systems, “Capture” and “Host”. They both clean carpet with the same concept, although, the absorbent properties are different. The procedures are similar, where the powder material is spread mechanically over the carpet surface, next an agitator device or machine rubs the cleaning product into the carpet and a beater bar style vacuum removes the soil that has absorbed into the cleaning compound or powder.

Advantages

- Carpet is dry and ready to use.
- Shrinkage or moisture damage is a non-factor.

Disadvantages

- Expensive for the customer.
- Powder residue is noticeable after vacuuming, due to compound build-up below the beater bar brush height.

Method # 4 Shampoo Cleaning

This pioneer cleaning method works on the bases of agitation, soil suspension, and extraction.

The soap is dispensed onto the carpet either by a spray or shower fed with a rotary floor machine. The revolving brush agitates the carpet fiber, loosening the soil and the shampoo suspends it within 10 to 12 minutes the extraction process, either wet or dry removes the solution and dirt.

Advantages

- The results are excellent if the procedures are done correctly.
- Removes odors, pet dander and heavy soil.

Disadvantages

- Leaves soap residue that create resoiling.
- Aggressive action may loosen seams and cause damage.

Method # 5 Bonnet Cleaning

This method is the second most popular and the visual results after completion is very positive. With a rotary floor machine, thick absorbent pads and a soil activating pretreatment. Soil is removed by spinning the pad over the damp carpet, thus, absorbing the surface soil into the pad.

Advantages

- Dries quickly (approximately one to two hours).
- Using very little moisture pile, backing and underpad does not get wet.

Disadvantages

- Cost is higher than the other methods.
- Does not deep clean, so soil/stains/odor deep down is not removed, and within a short time these problems work up to the surface.

Each one of these methods have advantages and disadvantages and each have an application for a variety of reasons, but for the best results and value and manufacturer's warranties, steam cleaning is the most used, recommended and gets the best results.

When you check out each method and determine which one is best suited for your carpet, based upon the condition. Then, the choosing of one method over another can be difficult or easy based upon your budget, the condition of the carpet, the type of fiber and your past experience.

Compro Carpet Cleaning offers our customers all five methods. We offer certified classroom trained technicians, who have the experience to use any method on all types of carpet. Whether we are cleaning a nylon fiber, Olifen or wool broadloom, trust Compro to do the job right and provide the results you expect.

Eight out of ten professional carpet cleaning companies use the steam cleaning method. Most of the leading carpet manufacturers, fiber producers,

distributors and the retailers, recommend steam cleaning. Our market survey in 2004, showed 9 out of 10 of our customers requested steam cleaning. Why, is this method more popular than the rest? Industry experts' answer this question by suggesting education is the reason. In 1990 when the IICRC offered voluntary certification courses, the carpet cleaning industry changed in a good way for the consumer.

It is a know fact that a bad carpet cleaning job is **not** because of the method, the equipment or the products used. It is the person doing the job, "Technician Error".

It is a fact, that 80% of our customers have one or more pets. It is estimated that almost 50% of our customers have or live with someone, who has allergies and/or asthma. So, when we recommend the steam cleaning method our certified staff will provide the best results. We know pets deposit dander, pollutants, odors and most stains are deep into the carpet pile, backings and even the sub-floor. Steam cleaning and our experience have the power to make your living or work environment healthy again.

Please call our office at 289-7008 and we will be happy to answer all your questions, if you have any concerns about your carpets or require on on-site estimate. One of our representatives will set an appointment to see your carpet and provide written estimate.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Dowling
President, Compro Services Ltd.