

Really, How Often Should Your Carpets Be Cleaned?

CONSUMER INFORMATION BULLETIN #2

RESIDENTIAL CARPET CLEANING FREQUENCY CHART

Traffic Soil Rating	Carpet Owner / Maintainer		Professional Carpet Cleaner/Restorer	
	Vacuuming	Spot Cleaning	Heavy-Use Area Cleaning	Restorative Cleaning
Light Soil	1x per week	Daily or as soon as spots are noticed	Traffic areas every 12 to 18 months	Every 2 years or per manufacturer warranty
Normal Soil (families with children, elderly)	1 to 2x per week	Daily or as soon as spots are noticed	Traffic areas every 6 to 12 months	Annually
Heavy Soil (families with pets, smoking)	2 to 4x per week	Daily or as soon as spots are noticed	Traffic areas every 3 to 6 months	Semi-Annually (2x annually)
Extreme conditions (large families, multiple pets)	Daily	Daily or as soon as spots are noticed	Traffic lanes every 2 to 3 months	Quarterly (4x annually)

CLEANING FREQUENCY

The use-life of carpet can be greatly extended with proper care. Carpet owners or maintainers must perform vacuuming, spot cleaning, and damage repair routinely. The charts on these pages provide general recommendations for frequency intervals for activities commonly undertaken by carpet owners and maintainers (vacuuming, spot cleaning), as well as activities that should be performed by trained professionals (interim maintenance, restorative, cleaning). They consider traffic, soil rating, vacuuming schedules, spot-cleaning schedules, and professional interim and restorative cleaning. Variations in the manufacture and use of carpet may require deviations from the frequency recommendations provided herein. Residential carpet should be professionally cleaned at least annually. Carpet that is subject to extreme soiling or heavy use, particularly high-traffic areas, or carpet installed in homes occupied by persons with allergies or respiratory problems require increased cleaning frequency. Carpet in low-traffic areas, such as formal living and dining rooms, needs less frequent cleaning.

Homeowners must not wait until carpet looks soiled before beginning a planned program. Significant soil accumulation at the base of carpet fibers occurs long before it becomes visible. In addition, the greater the soiling, the less likelihood of restoring the original color, appearance and texture of the carpet, and the greater the adverse affect on Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ).

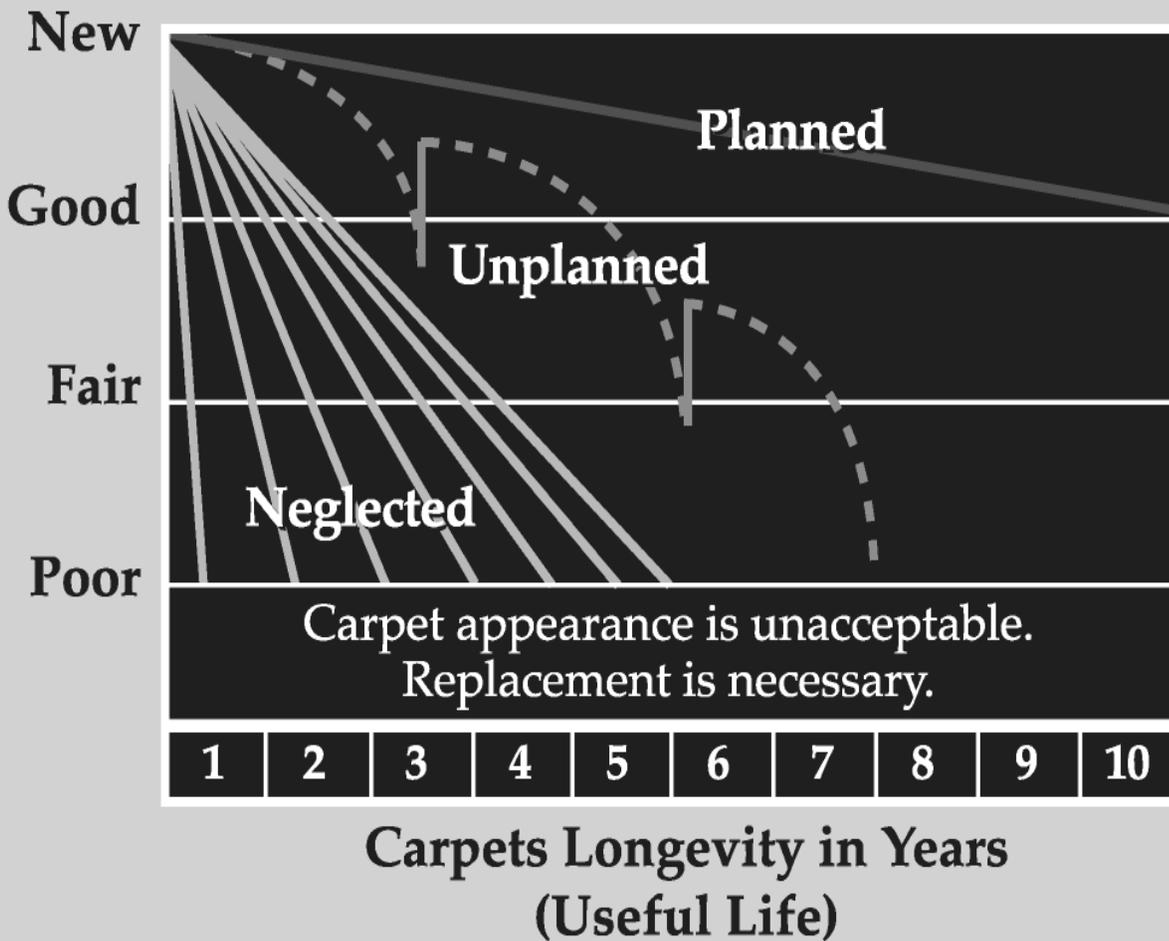
Source: IICRC Standard & Reference Guide for Professional Carpet Cleaning (IICRC S100), pp 13-17.

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Appearance Level



This chart illustrates how carpet with planned cleaning and maintenance schedules greatly outlasts those cleaned on an unplanned or neglected basis. With the cost of everything going up, properly maintained carpets won't need replacing nearly as often.

Doesn't that make cents?



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