

Insider Tips On How To Keep Your Home Looking Great Between Professional Cleaning

After professional cleaning your home looks great! All the spots that have been bothering you for the past few months are now gone. Now the question, is how do you keep them that way?

Here are a few tips you can use year round to prolong the life and beauty of your flooring, fabric and furnishings investment and help keep your home looking as fresh and clean as the day we professionally cleaned it.

15 Tips To Keep Your Carpet Fluffy, Soft and Clean

1. **Vacuum, Vacuum, Vacuum.** As a general rule vacuum traffic areas 3 to 5 times per week. This will prevent dirt from settling into the carpet. Walking on dirt and grit that has settled to the base of the fibers causes an abrasive action, which results in the appearance of traffic lanes and worn areas.
2. **Clean up spills immediately,** before they become permanent stains. You may refer to our spotting guide online, which can be found at www.ReferralCarpetCare.com. This will provide you with directions on how to proceed in removing spills. You may also call us at 483-4383 and we will give you assistance on how to properly remove the spill. You can also call The Scotchgard Service Center at 1-800-433-3296 at any time for expert advice over the phone on stain removal free of charge!
3. **Have your carpet professionally cleaned by Referral on a regular basis.** Carpet Manufacturers recommend professional cleaning at least every 6-18 months depending on the amount of “traffic” in the house. (i.e. kids, pets, shoes, etc.) Clean high traffic areas about twice as often as other areas.
4. **Reapply Carpet Protector** each time the carpet is cleaned to keep stains from setting in and the soil from grinding in. More information can be found on our website.
5. **Place walk off mats** or bound remnants on top of the carpet at high wear areas, such as in front of the sofa or chairs and entry/exit points from your home to absorb soil and moisture. Clean mats on a regular basis so they don't become sources of soil themselves. Be sure to check area rugs for colorfastness before placing them on carpet because the color in some rugs may bleed through or rubber back rugs can discolor the carpet below.
6. **Place smooth plastic chair mats** to help prevent carpet delamination and excessive wear.
7. **Rearrange furniture** to change the flow of traffic through a room.
8. **Prevent contact with household chemicals that can permanently discolor your carpet** such as bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, acme medicine, plant fertilizer, pesticides & swimming pool chemicals.
9. **Remove your shoes** when you enter your home.
10. **Control** the circulation and disposal of **food and drink** through the home.
11. **Reduce periods of direct sunlight to prevent color fading.** Use blinds and shades or window tinting.
12. **Use a powerful upright vacuum** with a beater brush and excellent filtration system for carpets. Be sure to change the disposable bag often to ensure efficient operation.
13. **Take your vacuum in for a checkup** at the vacuum repair shop annually to keep it operating at peak performance. Visit or call Service All Vacuums at 1029 E. Dupont Road 482-2258 or at 3211 East State 483-8421. Mention our company and present this page to get a vacuum tune up for \$19.95
14. **Have your clothes dryer vent cleaned** by Kirt at Dusty Brothers. Mention our company for a FREE Inspection. Call him at 482-9991 or visit www.DustyBrothers.com
15. **Have your air ducts cleaned and also clean or change your furnace filter** to keep your indoor air clean. Call Fort Wayne's Duct Cleaning Specialist, Ken at Quality Air. Mention our company and save \$50.00. Call Ken at 492-4247 or visit him online at www.492-4air.com

Valuable Oriental Rug Care Tips

Learn about rug pads, rug storage, spotting, dusting, washing and other helpful rug care tips by downloading Referrals Free “Rug Owners Guide To Safe Rug Care and Cleaning” tips found at www.FortWaynesOrientalRugCleaner.com



7 Tips To Keep Your Upholstery Fresh

1. Vacuum dust & dirt from all fabric, cracks & crevasses so it does not cause abrasion to the fabric. Think of how much dust would accumulate on a table if it were never dusted. That same amount is on your sofa, too. You just can't see it.
2. Reapply fabric protection after professional cleaning.
3. Rotate all loose cushions frequently to assure even wear. Most couch cushions are reversible but people seldom take advantage of this. Every two weeks when you vacuum your furniture flip the cushions over. This will spread out the wear and make your furniture last much longer.
4. Protect your upholstery from the sun. Ultraviolet light can cause deterioration or fading.
5. Keep pets off of furniture. Pet's body oils rub off and are very difficult to remove.
6. Use caution with clothing such as Blue Jeans. Fabric dyes can transfer onto upholstered furniture.
7. If you have animals get a rubber dish glove. The dish glove will make it easy to remove hair from the furniture. Simply put it on and rub your hand over the fabric. You will see that the hair bunches up into clumps making it easy to pick up and vacuum up. Other options include wrapping tape around your hand, sticky side out; using a clothing lint remover; or using a clothing brush to collect the hair.
8. Avoid sunlight or heat sources to avoid fading or drying of leather. Clean and condition leather at least 4 times a year.

13 Tips To Spotless Ceramic Tile & Grout

1. Purchase a good quality dust mop and sweep your hard surface floors daily.
2. Dirt, mud, grit and sand can get ground into the tile and grout from heavy foot traffic. This abrasion will cause damage.
3. Do protect floor surfaces with non-slip mats or area rugs. Dirt collecting carpet mats should be placed in frequently used entrances and shaken out weekly. Be sure the underside of the mat has a non slip surface. It is recommended that they are taken up and floors cleaned under them every month.
4. We do not recommend the use of floor waxes as they can be difficult to remove from ceramic tile floors. As long as your floor is properly sealed and maintained, you should find no need for these products.
5. Do not use vacuum cleaners that are worn. The metal or plastic attachments or the wheels may scratch the surface.
6. Many tile cleaners are acid based and their use should be limited. Always read the manufacturer's directions. All acids, no matter how weak, will etch marble surfaces or damage the tile's glaze or polish. Don't use vinegar, lemon juice or other cleaners containing acids on marble, limestone, travertine or onyx surfaces. In addition, avoid any cleaner that contains harsh abrasives.
7. Spot removal procedures should be expedited as soon as accidents occur.
8. After performing a wet maintenance, open windows or utilize fans to get air circulating. The faster it dries the better the results and less chance for rapid re-soiling.
9. Chairs and tables in hard surface areas could cause serious damage to floors if legs and corners are not protected. Teflon or felt can be used to prevent abrasive damage caused by the furniture.
10. When snow and ice are present, be sure to leave shoes that may have salt or liquid deicer on them at the door. Chemicals used in these products cause rapid and irreversible damage.
11. Dry sand on hard surfaces should be removed as soon as noticed. Wear patterns and scratches will dull your floor and reduce enhancement efforts.
12. Clean and rinse your hard surfaces often, at least weekly in high traffic or kitchen areas. Rinse with plain water unless using a recommended cleaner / protector product.
13. Seal the grout to increase its longevity after new installation of grout or professional cleaning. Applying a sealer will help fill the pore structure and help keep the grout from absorbing stains and foreign materials.

Tips On How To Prevent Water Damage In Your Home

Visit www.FloodedInFortWayne.com to learn how to prevent water damage, what to do and what not to do if your home is flooded and how Referral can restore your home after a flood.



14 Tips To Keep Your Wood Floor Beautiful

1. Dirt, dust and grit can also damage your hardwood floor. Tracking dirt, dust, and grit can dull its finish and cause scratches that can only be repaired by refinishing the floor. Regular dust mopping or vacuuming at least twice a week is an essential part of hardwood floor care. Invest in a good broom that features exploded tips to trap dust and dirt, not simply spread it around. Dust mops can also be helpful in keeping dirt, dust, and grit under control.
2. Vacuum frequently, using a canister vacuum with special hardwood floor attachments. Don't use an upright vacuum with beater bars. They can cause dents in your floor's finish.
3. Use a damp wet mop to clean your wood floor. Do NOT flood your floor with water. High moisture content can damage your floors.
4. Maintain a relative humidity of 45% to 50% in your home.
 - In the summer, when there is high moisture content, this may require the use of air conditioning or a dehumidifier. Excess moisture content could cause permanent damage in the form of ridges, cupping or buckling.
 - In the winter, when there is low moisture content this may require the use of a humidifier. Dry air can expose cracks and high edges.
5. Wipe up any spills immediately with a soft, dry cloth, starting at the edges of the spill and working your way toward the center.
6. Place glides made of felt or some other fabric under the legs of furniture to prevent scratches. Clean the glides regularly to ensure that dust and grit do not become imbedded. Use barrel-type casters instead of ball casters to prevent dents. Use non-marking rubber casters instead of plastic or metal.
7. Lift furniture when moving it to avoid scratches in the floor's surface.
8. Use doormats at the entrances of your home to help trap dirt and grit. Clean them regularly.
9. Don't use throw rugs with rubber or vinyl backing without checking to determine if they will affect your floor's finish. Some materials in the backing can react with certain floor finishes, discoloring or causing the finish to become dull.
10. Move your area carpets or throw rugs occasionally to maintain a uniform appearance in the floor's finish.
11. Make sure there are no exposed nails or metal heel supports on shoes that could scratch or dent the floor. Check shoes with soles that have deep treads to ensure that any trapped dirt or gravel won't scratch or dent the floor. Be aware that high heels can dent a hardwood floor.
12. Do not wax or polish your wood floor. Urethane finishes require little maintenance. Waxes and polishes will actually make the floor harder to clean and cause problems for future recoats.
13. Protect your floors by using sheer drapes, curtains, or blinds to limit sunlight. The ultraviolet radiation in sunlight can cause discoloration over time.
14. If your wood floor needs sanded and refinished call Classic Floors at 260-490-6412 or visit them online at www.classicfloorsinc.com. They can complete the project or they offer professional sanding equipment rental and training for the do it yourselfer.

Prolong The Life Of Your Mattress And Enjoy Your Sleep For Years To Come.

1. **Turn Your Mattress Regularly:** To help prevent sagging springs and unsightly sags, turn on a regular basis. Be sure to flip both vertically and horizontally.
2. **Provide Support:** Old, busted foundations and box spring sets may not be firm enough to provide adequate support for a high-quality bed. When you replace your bedding, also consider replacing your foundation. If you have a queen or king size mattress they require a frame with a center support.
3. **Invest in a Bedding Pad:** A quality washable mattress will bear the brunt of your weight and use of the mattress, which will help reduce the wear and tear on your mattress. Mattress pads will also catch stains before they reach your mattress. Replacing a stained mattress pad is much less expensive and much more convenient than replacing a quality bed. Wash the mattress pad at least once a month.
4. **Keep Jumping to the Trampoline:** Although it's tempting, avoid jumping on the beds and avoid letting others jump on the bed. Mattresses are not designed to withstand the weight of a person jumping on the bed
5. Have Referral professionally clean your mattress to remove dust mites and allergens.
6. **Do not use the handles to support the full weight of the mattress.** Typically, handles are designed to help you position the mattress over the foundation. If used improperly, handles may pull out and damage the fabric.

