



# Instruction Pamphlet

## A step-by-step guide to cleaning procedures for textile flooring

The reason for this instruction pamphlet is the specification of RAL 991/A 3.01/2005  
(Definition for cleaning textile flooring).  
6th Edition March 2015

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This Instruction pamphlet on no account replaces the maintenance & cleaning instructions provided by any flooring manufacturer.

This pamphlet may only be quoted and used in its entirety.

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Instruction Pamphlet  
A step-by-step guide to cleaning procedures  
for textile flooring.  
Produced by werterhalt.org

The reason for this instruction pamphlet is the specification  
of RAL 991/A 3.01/2005  
(Definition for cleaning textile flooring).

As this definition constitutes a listing of existing cleaning procedures – without advice about application or intensity –, the working group werterhalt.org has prepared this pamphlet in its 6th edition, effective March 2015.

It serves to exclude factual and technical misinterpretation of a pure definition and by creating a precise instruction sheet, in which compliance with the working steps described therein is binding; it provides the user with the possibility of comparison regarding the quality of cleaning work.

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This pamphlet was created in cooperation with the Bundesverbandes Estrich und Belag e.V., BEB, (Federal association of screed and surfacing, registered association), working group flooring.

Paul Geißler

Managing partner of Paul Geißler GmbH and chair of the main office of specialist German carpet cleaners (FDT®). Paul Geißler has worked with his company for more than 40 years in the segment of conservation of the value of carpeted floors and applies nationwide all cleaning procedures recognised in the market after object, surfacing or laying-related features.

Due to his expert knowledge, and a long-time cooperation with German textile surfacing manufacturers, the Paul Geißler GmbH was assigned – due to neutrality – the draft of this pamphlet.

Experts of the abovementioned companies have for many years helped their customers to make the right choice of quality carpeting.

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## 1. TEXTILE FLOORING

This means pile carpet flooring, flat woven fabric, pin and pile fleece surfacing that are glued, stretched, fixed, loosely laid or otherwise properly laid carpeting in accordance with EN 1307.

Each cleaning procedure must be suitable for the respective textile flooring, its laying, the under floor construction, and the required drying time.

Note:

For re-absorptive textile flooring constructions, such as tiles, boards, etc., the manufacturer's recommendation should be obtained due to the diversity of products.

## 2. TRANSFER OF MERCHANDISE

The carpet laying instructions of the carpet flooring manufacturers clearly define the protection of the floor covering after laying.

If soiling occurs due to work after the installation of the floor covering and before it is accessed for regular use, it must be removed thoroughly by a qualified post-construction final cleaning service.

All cleaning work which goes beyond the scope of fine post-construction cleaning (dry removal with an upright vacuum according to 4.1., with brush rollers depending on the level of soiling) is considered to be intensive cleaning. This is only to be performed by a qualified expert company in accordance with item 6.

## 3. PREVENTATIVE CARE

Carpet flooring is to be protecting from the introduction of soiling from the start.

In entry and transition areas (e.g. hard flooring on textile flooring), sufficiently large, reasonable clean flow areas are to be solidly installed.

A daily cleaning interval (upright vacuuming 4.1.) is required so that these clean flow zones do not themselves become a source of soiling.

This stamp effect can also occur if products containing wax are not used properly during the daily care of hard surfaces.

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## 4 . D A I L Y M A I N T E N A N C E C L E A N I N G

### 4.1. Vacuuming textile surfaces

Regular vacuuming and the cleaning of soiling is an important component of an ideal cleaning routine.

Vacuuming is helps to loosen loosely stacked or lightly attached dirt from the surface and between the fibres using mechanical impact (brushes and suction brushes) and to suction of the loosened dirt.(and suction of the loosened dirt.). With this cleaning, the pile carpeting has an upright posture which also constitutes preventative care against early formation of walking tracks in the carpeting.

This process also opens the pile to prepare for subsequent cleaning.

Vacuuming should be conducted daily, but it is also a part of interim, basic and intensive cleaning.

The best results can be achieved with upright vacuum cleaners with a high-efficiency motor-powered brush. You must ensure that the brush height is in the right position and there is a systematic and thorough work method.

Regular maintenance is important, especially for the brushes, filters (preferably: micro filters) and bags. The brushes adapted to the floor covering should be used.

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## 4.2. Spot treatment of textile surfacing

Spot treatment is part of daily maintenance cleaning. It is also an essential part task of all further cleaning procedures.

Spot treatment includes the localised treatment of spots and soiling. Care must be taken that the cleaning agents used can be removed residue-free, so that no re-soiling or damage to the material occurs.

Spot treatment should be carried out as soon as possible after the soiling occurs.

The earlier a spot is treated, the higher the possibility of removing it residue-free, unless the spot substance has damaged the fibres or the colouring. If spots are immediately treated with suitable cleaning agents, complete removal is usually possible.

Not every spot, e.g. due to heavily colouring substances such as coffee, red wine, tea, mustard, ink toner, can be removed without remains.

Cleaning and de-spotting agents with a bleaching effect can only be used in exceptional cases by arrangement with the floor covering manufacturer because damages to the floor covering can occur under some circumstances.

Soiling and spots can be removed in most cases with hand-hot water and an absorbent cloth (white cotton cloth) or a microfibre glove. Do not rub, but dab the spot from the outside to the inside with pressure.

Water-soluble stains can be treated using a surfactant-free stain remover – as described above.

Non water-soluble stains (oils, fats, etc.) can be removed – as described above – using a stain remover containing solvents.

Gum, wax etc. can be removed when dry with a blunt object (spoon, etc.) without damaging the carpet fibres. The residual substance can be loosened – as described above – by a stain remover containing solvents.

When using e.g. freezing spray, always observe the manufacturer specifications.

Always make sure that the stain remover used is tested on a flooring oddment or an unobtrusive or hidden location before using.

Always keep your cleaning agents out of reach of children and pets.

Safety and application guidelines by the cleaning agent manufacturer must always be observed.

Article 4.1. and article 4.2. are components of the following cleaning procedures.



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## 5 . I N T E R I M C L E A N I N G

Interim cleaning includes the partial or whole-surface cleaning of the flooring surface with low depth effect and should only be conducted by a qualified expert company.

It is no replacement for intensive cleaning and can only delay this.

A test area should be treated first.

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## 5.1. Cleaning with prefabricated foam

In this cleaning procedure, crystalline searing, stationary foam, prefabricated in a compressor within the machine, is applied to the textile flooring by rolls, one-disc machines or similar.

After a drying time of at least 5 hours, the flooring must be vacuumed again thoroughly in order to remove the remaining, dirt-enriched crystalline residue of the foam.

- 5.1.1. Vacuuming with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.
- 5.1.2. Stain removal as in 4.2.
- 5.1.3. Applying prefabricated foam, using one-disc, multi-disc or brushing machine with compressor.
- 5.1.4. Suction of loosened dirt with a powerful industrial water suction device
- 5.1.5. When completely dry, repeated thorough vacuuming as in 4.1.

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## 5.2. Powder cleaning

This process can generally only be used for velour carpeting (excluding shags etc.)

The advantage of this cleaning process lies in the fact that the carpet flooring needs minimum drying time and it can therefore be carried out quickly.

The wet cleaning powder is scattered evenly on the carpet using a scattering device or by hand and then incorporated intensely with special brush roller machines.

The loosened dirt is absorbed and bound by the cleaning powder. After the powder has dried, the carpet must be vacuumed with an upright vacuum cleaner according to 4.1.

As a result, soiling and powder residue are largely removed.

- 5.2.1. Vacuuming with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.
- 5.2.2. Stain removal as in 4.2.
- 5.2.3. Evenly scattering wet powder and subsequent incorporation into the surface with special brush roller machines.
- 5.2.4. After complete drying (approx. 1 hour), use an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.

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### 5.3. Pad cleaning

First a special cleaning agent is applied evenly, e.g. with a pressure sprayer.

Using a rotating one-disc machine and a yarn or microfibre pad beneath it, the bound dirt is loosened or removed from the surface and held in the pad.

With one-disc machines, it is important to ensure that the speed is  $< \text{RPM}$  in order not to cause any damages in the flooring surface.

It is important that the yarn or microfibre pads are changed regularly for the best results. Then vacuum the textile flooring with a powerful upright vacuum cleaner.

The drying time is about 1 to 2 hours.

- 5.3.1.      Vacuuming with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.
- 5.3.2.      Stain removal as in 4.2.
- 5.3.3.      Wetting of the textile surface with cleaning agent, e.g. using a pressure sprayer
- 5.3.4.      Dirt removal from the upper wear layer area by using a one-disc machine and pad
- 5.3.5.      After complete drying (approx. 1 hour), vacuum as in 4.1.

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## 6 . I N T E N S I V E C L E A N I N G

Intensive cleaning involves all-over cleaning of textile surfacing to the full depth of the wear layer.

It should be conducted object related, but at least once a year after it is laid and only by a qualified expert company.

A test area should be generally treated be first regardless of the cleaning process.

An important factor in selecting the appropriate cleaning procedure will depend on the type of the style of laying, the under floor construction and the time available for drying.

Depending on the extent of textile flooring soiling, procedures can be combined.

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## 6.1. Spray extraction

The loosely lying or lightly attached dirt should be removed with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.

After preliminary stain removal has taken place, spray a cleaning agent for textile flooring that is low in tensides on the surfacing.

Using a spray extraction machine (with sufficient water output) the loosened dirt is extracted from the textile flooring with clear water.

Important!

- Do not use cleaning agent in the spray extraction machine (if a cleaning agent is put in the fresh water tank, the cleaning agent residue must be rinsed from the textile flooring with sufficient clear water)
- Repeated rinsing with clear water
- Drying time at least 12 hours
- Unsuitable for water-sensitive surfacing, adhesive and under floor surfaces
- Spray extraction is not recommended for: re-absorbable textile flooring structures, tiles, boards, or when laying double flooring. In sections it can be used for stain removal with minimum moisture.

6.1.1.      Vacuuming with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.

6.1.2.      Stain removal as in 4.2.

6.1.3.      Pre-spraying a cleaning agent low in tensides

6.1.4.      Repeated rinsing using a spray extraction machine  
(with sufficient water output)

6.1.5.      After complete drying, vacuum again as in 4.1.

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## 6.2. Combination procedure

### *Shampooing and spray extraction*

The loosely lying or lightly attached dirt should be removed with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.

After preliminary stain removal, a cleaning agent is incorporated into the surfacing with a one-disc, three-disc or roller machine (non-surfactant cleaning agent). Before drying the loosened dirt will be rinsed out of the surfacing as in 6.1.4.

Important!

- Use a cleaning agent low in tensides for shampooing
- No further cleaning agent in the spray extraction machine
- Repeated rinsing with clear water
- Drying time rarely below 20 hours
- Do not use on water-sensitive surfacing, adhesive and under floor surfaces.

6.2.1. Vacuuming with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.

6.2.2. Stain removal as in 4.2.

6.2.3. Incorporating a suitable cleaning agent using a one-disc, three-disc or roller machine

6.2.4. Repeated combined with any necessary post stain removal as in 4.2. using a spray extraction machine (with sufficient water output)

6.2.5. After complete drying, vacuum again as in 4.1.

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### 6.3. The thermoelectric cleaning procedure TEP – TOP – CLEAN®

TEP-TOP-CLEAN® is a special intensive cleaning system, exclusively developed for carpet flooring. The loosely lying or lightly attached dirt should be removed with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1. After preliminary stain removal, an environmentally-friendly enzyme solution is applied to the carpet flooring.

During the cleaning procedure, the dirt is loosened and is absorbed by a special cleaning pillow. The interior structure of the cleaning machine with a uniquely number of revolutions can withstand a constant build-up of heat (about 30°C). Afterwards the carpet flooring is vacuumed with an upright vacuum cleaner in order to restore the pile and make it parallel. This patented procedure is recommended manufacturer-independent and is ideal for the right care from the start.

Advantages of this procedure:

- No chemical residue due to the use of the FDT® enzyme cleaning agent
- No rapid resoiling
- Immediate accessibility
- Resource-efficient by saving about 96% of drinking water
- Designated for use in moisture-resistant background structure and double floors as well as re-absorbable textile flooring structures such as tiles, boards etc. with a high number of joints.
- Profitability by reducing consumption costs

6.3.1. Vacuuming with an upright vacuum cleaner as in 4.1.

6.3.1. Stain removal as in 4.2.

6.3.1. Spraying a product using an electric spray pump with evenly atomising pressure.

6.3.1. Working the entire area with a thermoelectric cleaning machine and cleaning pillow combined with any necessary post stain removal as in 4.2.

6.3.1. Vacuum as in 4.1.



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## 7 . F I B R E E Q U I P M E N T

Fibre equipment can cause damage to flooring and is therefore not recommended.

## 8 . S T E A M C L E A N E R S

The use of steam cleaners is not suitable for this purpose.

## 9 . S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y

Sustainability encompasses the protection of natural resources, economic effectiveness, socio-cultural values and also human health.

The work group [werterhalt.org](http://werterhalt.org) also represents these values through its work on carpet flooring and covers the complete life cycle of textile floor coverings through the synergy of competencies.

With this instruction pamphlet, the work group is appealing to [werthalt.org](http://werthalt.org) to be aware of the need to conserve resources. In general, people should use the process which has the least

- consumption of resources
- and uses as few cleaning chemicals as possible
- with a care programme planned from the beginning which will promote the service life of the textile floor covering.



[www.werterhalt.org](http://www.werterhalt.org)