Article published on January 21st 2012 | Family

Carpet cleaning traditionally means the method of removal of dirt, stain, sand, grit etc from carpets. The ways that this can be done are many and they are both modern and traditional. Clean carpets are pleasant to the eyes, last longer and are healthier than dirty ones. But as a matter of fact, the true meaning of carpet cleaning is still unknown to a large mass out there.

Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certificate (IICRC) is a private non-profit body that attests, governs and educates the organizations that are part of the fabric cleaning industry. Under the IICRC, there are five accepted methodologies of both wet and dry cleaning. Carpet cleaning can be achieved with/by steam cleaning methods, dry cleaning, encapsulation, biodegradable cleaning compounds, buffers or bonnets, shampoo, vacuum cleaner, tea leaves and cut grass, carpet rods, rattan rug beaters, carpet-beating machines, brooms, brushes, dust-pans, shaking, hanging etc.

Steam cleaning can be achieved under high pressure by hot water extraction methods using alkaline solutions; however acids are required for woolen materials or manmade fibers. Wands etc are used manually or automatically as cleaning tools to wipe the particulates off the surface.

If an alkaline detergent is used for woolen fibers, it has to be neutralized with an acid solution preferably acetic acid, to restore normal fiber pH. Detergent based solutions are also used but in this case it must be dried before use and drying usually takes 12-24 hours. Some detergent solutions are amalgamated with carbon dioxide that effectively dissolves organic discards. Because of the long time required to dry after leaning, this method using water usually is rejected by customers.

This method also happens to result in discoloration of the carpets and multiplication bacteria, fungi etc on the carpets. Dry carpet cleaning systems rely on VLM or â€œvery low moistureâ€• techniques, dry compounds, detergents or emulsifiers etc. This method involves rapid drying time and hence is preferred over the wet cleaning system. Biodegradable absorbent cleaning compounds may be evenly spread over the carpet and then brushed or scrubbed off. For household purposes brushing or scrubbing can be replaced by vacuum cleaning after the compounds have been used.

Machine scrubbers or specially designed brushing systems may also be used. Deep-cleaning compound crystals or encapsulating crystals may also be used. Encapsulation is a growing and up-coming technique that is being used widely. Cleaning solutions are applied with brushing applicators or rotary machines. Dry residues can be immediately vacuumed. Encapsulation does not entail any drying time and hence the carpets can be available for use immediately after cleaning.

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Article Keywords:

gift ideas, gifts, dishwashers,

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