



Residential Carpet Cleaning Frequency Chart

Did you know that according to the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration (IICRC) you should have your carpets cleaned **AT LEAST 1 TIME PER YEAR** depending on the amount of traffic. The IICRC is a professional association that trains & monitors cleaning technicians throughout North America. To help you decide how often your carpets need to be cleaned, I have included a graph from the IICRC S100 Standards. These standards provide the guidelines used by the Carpet Industry to give your carpet the longest life possible.







Cleaning Frequency Guidelines from the IICRC Standard for Carpet Cleaning S001-1991

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

This table is intended to serve as a guideline for recommended cleaning frequencies from a public health perspective. Originally published in a letter from the U.S. EPA, this schedule has been adopted as part of the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification's (IICRC) Carpet Cleaning Standard S001-1991. Complete copies of the IICRC Carpet Cleaning Standard can be obtained by calling the Institute at 360-693-5675. (From: U.S. EPA Letter, January, 1989)

What do we recommend?

There's no doubt that regular, professional cleanings benefit both you and your carpet. Removing unwanted contaminants from your carpet promotes a healthier indoor environment. Properly maintaining your carpet prolongs its useful life. We can help you determine how often you should clean your carpets during your cleaning visit. Here are a few tips.

-  Clean your carpet sooner rather than later. Soil buried in your carpet acts like an abrasive, accelerating the wear of face yarns, and soils are much harder to remove when they've been ground in over an extended period of time.
-  Vacuum regularly, especially in front of exterior doors where soils can accumulate.
-  Clean up spills when they happen.
-  Use products intended for use on carpets only. Try water or carbonated water first. If the spot remains use a non-residual product such as "Spotter Blotter".
-  Properly performed cleaning, even frequent cleaning, does not damage your carpet nor will it cause your carpet to soil more quickly.
-  ALWAYS consult a professional if you have questions about the care of your carpet.