

Have You Heard?

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Regular Carpet Maintenance ---- It's Essential

Proper care of your carpets and rugs will greatly determine how long they last in your home. How much day-to-day cleaning is needed depends on many things. Rooms that are used very little do not require much attention. Others that receive daily use require daily attention.

Give carpets and rugs in heavy traffic areas a quick lint and litter pickup daily. A quick, five-minute vacuuming or a run with a nonelectric carpet sweeper will do.

Once a week use a vacuum cleaner to thoroughly clean rugs and carpets throughout the house.

These cleanings should include moving and cleaning under all but the heaviest pieces of furniture. Use slow, even, back and forth strokes to assure removal of deeply embedded dirt. For best appearance, final strokes should be with the grain of the carpet.

Plush pile carpet is difficult to clean because it is usually high in density and has a deep pile. A selfpropelled, upright vacuum cleaner will give up-down cleaning without forcing you to struggle to push the vacuum.

Brooms should not be used on carpeting as they merely toss the dirt around and let it settle back on the carpet. Furthermore a broom's stiff bristles may damage looped pile or break carpet tufts.

Spills and stains should be treated immediately to prevent permanent damage. Consult a stain removal chart for each type of stain.

When regular vacuuming no longer brings out the original luster of your carpet, it's time for a thorough cleaning. Carpets become dull due to a buildup of oily soil. Cleaning can be done professionally, or by a variety of do-it-yourself methods.

Winter Window Warm Ups

Do winter winds seem to come right through your windows even if your storm windows are well sealed? If so, don't just wrap up in a blanket and hope for spring blanket your windows instead.

Energy efficient window treatments can help you reduce your heat loss through glass surfaces. Once you've plugged the heat leaks around the sills and sashes, and reduced heat loss through your window panes by installing storm windows, triple glazed windows or polyethylene coverings, it's time to consider more decorative but important interior window coverings. To be effective these must have certain characteristics.

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The fabric needs to be tightly woven to restrict the transfer of heat from the warm room to the cool window glass. Quilted fabrics or those with nap can work well as decorator fabrics. Because they are exposed to sunshine, fabrics need to be fade resistant and it's best if they are also shrink resistant.

Window treatments must fit the window snugly at the bottom, sides, and if possible, at the top. A tight fit stops the flow of air or local convection currents in the room which push warm air against the glass and set up a draft in the window area.

A vapor barrier must be included in window treatments to prevent condensation of moisture on cold windows. Moisture buildup causes mildew problems and, over a period of time, leads to discoloration and rot. Put the vapor barrier between the insulating layer and the heated room

to prevent the insulating layer from absorbing moisture.

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Don't forget to consider the total look of your window treatments. An energy efficient treatment can be used in combination with your present draperies. You can also consider shades and shutters to get the effect and the efficiency you want.

Here are a few suggestions to try:

• Insulate roller shades. These can be made just like traditional shades, with the addition of a vapor barrier such as a 4 mil plastic sheet, and layer of insulation.

• Make lined draperies with a cornice. You can make a cornice of wood, sturdy cardboard or rigid foam, cover it with fabric, wallpaper or paint. Then sew a lining into the pleats of new draperies or make buttonholes in a lining and slip it over the drapery hooks of existing unlined draperies.

• Make a night wall of foiledfaced rigid insulation and cover it with lining and decorator fabrics.

