



Experts Guide: Cleaning Spills from Your Rug & Carpet



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With Most Spills You Should:

1. Remove Excess Spill: Blot up liquid spills & scoop up solid spills
 2. Clean the area with a ph. neutral soap or detergent
 3. Rinse the soap out thoroughly with warm/hot water
 4. Dry the area thoroughly
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General Cleaning for Liquid & Solid Spills:

Liquid Spills:

Liquid spills should be blotted up with a towel immediately. Fold a towel in fourths and place it over the spill and then step on the towel. Then, flip the towel over and blot again by stepping on the towel. Repeat this process using as many towels as it takes to get up all excess liquid. In some cases, blotting up the spill quickly and aggressively will eliminate the spill completely. It is important to blot instead of rubbing. Rubbing can push the spill deeper into the textile while also creating friction which can damage the fibers of the rug/carpet.

^{1A}. Next, use a very small amount of neutral ph. cleaner such as Dawn (a colorless soap is best). A drop of soap goes a long way. Once the area is cleaned with soap you need to rinse the soap out with warm/hot water. You want to make sure the soap is washed out thoroughly, if soap remains it will attract dirt and overtime you will see dark dirty areas where the soap was applied. However, if too much water is used it can become difficult to dry properly allowing for the possibility of mildew. We suggest starting with a minimal amount of water and adding as needed. Lastly dry the area thoroughly using a fan and opening a window for air circulation.

- For wine or coffee spills we recommend a product called **Wine Away** that works effectively to reduce or completely remove spills. **Wine Away** is used by many professional cleaners with great results.
- Pet urine is tricky to remove because of the enzymes it contains. Once the area is blotted up and cleaned it should then be treated with a detergent or vinegar solution that will neutralize the bacteria in the urine helping to reduce the odor.

Solid Spills:

Whether it be food, dessert or vomit it is important to remove the excess spill from the rug. We find it effective to take a blunt knife or spoon and scrape up the excess spill. Follow the steps above under “Liquid Spills 1A” in completing the cleanup of a solid spill.

- Vomit is extremely acidic with strong odors. Once the area is blotted up and cleaned it should then be treated with a detergent or vinegar solution that will neutralize the bacteria in the vomit helping to reduce the odor.

*While the above tips are best practice at reducing and removing spills/stains some stains are simply not removable. It is important to follow specific instructions on your rug and or carpet based on the materials it is made from. Some rug dyes may bleed or react to certain water temperatures/soaps. If you are uncertain about the best way to clean a spill or accident, please contact your local textile experts at Atiyeh Bros.

Cleaning up 6 Common Spills:

Blood: Immediately scrape up the excess with a spoon, followed by applying a detergent solution. Start at the outer edge of the stain and blot dry. Follow with an ammonia solution and then blot dry again. (Be careful when using ammonia, less is more.) As blood dries it often wicks back to the surface, be patient and repeat this process as necessary until the blood ceases to wick to the surface.

Oil: Immediately scrape up as much oil/grease as possible with a spoon. Follow with a dry-cleaning solvent, then a detergent or vinegar solution. Lastly, blot dry with a cloth.

Wax: Immediately scrape up the excess with a blunt knife or a spoon, then use a dry-cleaning solvent followed by a detergent or vinegar solution. Lastly, blot dry with a cloth.

Chocolate: Immediately scrape up the excess with a blunt knife or a spoon. Next use a ph. Neutral detergent solution (we recommend Dawn, choose a colorless option if available for best results). Start at the outer edge of the stain, and blot dry. Follow with an ammonia solution and blot dry again.

Wine: Immediately blot up the excess wine by applying pressure to the spill with a towel, then treat the area with **Wine Away**, a product regularly used by professional cleaners. If you do not have **Wine Away** then use a vinegar or detergent solution and work from the outer edge of the stain, using a little solution at a time, and blotting with a dry cloth frequently. Repeat these steps until the stain is reduced or removed.

Coffee/Tea: Immediately blot up the excess spill by applying pressure with a towel then use a detergent solution, followed by a vinegar solution. Work from the outer edge of the stain using the solution sparingly. Blot up moisture with a dry cloth frequently as you go.

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