

NATURAL FIBRE FLOORING MAINTENANCE

General Maintenance

Regular Vacuuming with a strong suction vacuum cleaner is the primary maintenance regime for all Natural Flooring Carpets. Preferably not one with beater brushes. The strong suction of the vacuum pulls out the fine dirt which has accumulated between the fibres. This frequent and regular vacuuming will increase carpet life by preventing soil and dirt build-up, even when not obviously visible. Soil and dirt are abrasive and lead to increased wear of the flooring.

Immediate attention to spills is the most important aspect of spot removal on Natural carpets, as it is with most floor covering. The spilled substance should be removed as soon as possible by blotting up with clean, un-dyed paper towels or cloths, or scraped up with a dull knife or nail file. Most water-borne spills or oily substances can cause permanent damage to Natural fibre products if not attended to immediately. Certain substances can cause immediate damage.

Clean water can be used to dilute the stain/spot. Water should be dabbed on rather than rubbed and care should be taken to not over-saturate the area. Once the stain is diluted the water should be dried as best possible – blotting with undyed paper-towel or cloth. If left too wet – a water-mark can remain.

Bleaches and most harsh cleaning products should be avoided.

Nouwens Dry cleaning powder can be used on natural flooring products as directed. (Spread, wait and vacuum).

Nouwens Cleaning Solvent (suitable for Wool and Natural Fibres) can also be used sparingly. Always dab on rather than rub – and rinse with tepid clear water afterwards as directed.)

Some Specific Stains:

DRINKS/COFFEE/TEA/BEER/WINE ETC.

Rinse immediately with tepid clean water and blot thoroughly.

Try and dry area as well as possible to avoid leaving a watermark. Even carefully using a hairdryer can help.

SHOE POLISH/FURNITURE POLISH/GREASE/OIL

Try sponging with Nouwens Solvent

Then rinse immediately with tepid clean water and blot thoroughly.

Try and dry area as well as possible to avoid leaving a watermark. Even carefully using a hairdryer can help.

FATS/BUTTER/OILS/CHOCOLATE/GRAVY/JAM ETC.

Try sponging with Nouwens Solvent

Then rinse immediately with tepid clean water and blot thoroughly.

Try and dry area as well as possible to avoid leaving a watermark. Even carefully using a hairdryer can help.

PETS URINE

Rinse immediately more thoroughly with tepid clean water and blot thoroughly.

Try and dry area as well as possible to avoid leaving a watermark. Even carefully using a hairdryer can help.

Professional steam, wet-dry or dry cleaning should only be undertaken by companies with specific knowledge of natural carpeting. We can be contacted to provide referrals if required.

Some More Information about the specific Natural Fibres

COIR: Coir is made from the strong, rugged fibres of the coconut husk. The husks are soaked in salt water ponds to soften and lighten the fibre (a process called retting) so that they may be separated and spun. Coir provides a rustic and very durable floor covering. Top to bottom this is a naturally green product. Undyed coir fibre on a natural latex and clay backing.

It is relatively stain resistant and most water-soluble miss-haps can will cleaned if quickly attended to. Water can be used quite liberally – but care should be taken to dry the carpet afterward.

We supply a herringbone design and a boucle design – both woven and backed on natural rubber latex backing. (CAN BE GLUED DOWN OR STRETCHED OR MADE INTO RUGS). Note: Coir tends to relax in humid conditions and shrink when extremely dry. Installers should allow for a return visit to re-stretch and double rows of gripper are often used. Coir tends to lighten in sunlight. Fitting Coir in direct sunlight, in front of glass doors can cause the fibre to become brittle over time and can shorten the lifespan.

SEAGRASS: Grows in the tropical climates of China & Vietnam on the banks of rivers. The crop is harvested by hand, dried and twisted into cords before being woven into flooring. The finished product is backed with a latex backing. It is completely undyed and it's grass-like sheath character makes it highly resilient to water-borne stains. Seagrass provides a virtually stain proof hardy floor covering, with good wear life. (SHOULD BE GLUED DOWN OR MADE INTO BOUND RUGS)

HEMP (INDIAN JUTE): Jute is soft and comes from the stalks of the giant Corchorus plants. The fine silky fibre is relatively soft, compared to Coir and Sisal. Chunky boucle and panama weaves are available, and they have a rubber latex backing. No dyes are used but by careful selection of fibres we can offer a more Golden colour or a Silver grey. The woven loops are informal and rustic, with irregularities and knots characteristic. But no other natural carpet can offer the complex natural hues that the Hemp/Jute does. The natural striations and rich tones make this carpet a feature in many decorating magazines. The most comfortable and luxurious of our natural fibres, but not as hard wearing due to the short silky fibre. 3-5 years of wear with normal use.

Hemp does respond well to cleaning as directed – stains if well diluted quite quickly and then dried mostly disappear. (CAN BE FITTED ON FELT, GLUED ON RUBBERLAY OR MADE INTO BOUND RUGS)

SISAL: is extracted from the Agave Sisalana plant which is farmed in Brazil, Mexico and especially East Africa. The leaves are dense with a fine texture that are hand-picked and then crushed to extract the white fibres which can be spun to yarn. The white fibre takes dye extremely well and natural hues are created with subtle fibre blending. The sisal fibre is fine, but strong and is machine woven on high tech machinery to produce very formal woven product. The sisal is very hard wearing, although chunkier weaves can flatten over time. The finer boucle styles are very hard-wearing.

Sisal is a dyed product and more susceptible to liquid borne stains than the other varieties. Chemicals and urine tend to affect Sisal rather quickly and marks can be permanent. Cleaning instructions can be followed as before but thorough wetting should be avoided if possible. is prone to water-borne stains. (CAN BE FITTED ON FELT OR GLUED DOWN AND MAKES WONDERFUL BOUND RUGS)