

Australian/New Zealand Standard

**Textile floor coverings—Cleaning
maintenance of residential and
commercial carpeting**

AS/NZS 3733:1995

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The following interests are represented on Committee TX/9:

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Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation
AWTA Textile Testing
Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia
Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners Association of Australia
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Chemical Confederation of Australia
Commercial Carpet Suppliers Association of N.S.W.
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commercial carpeting**

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TX/9 on Carpets to supersede, in Australia, AS 3733—1990, *Textile floor coverings—Cleaning maintenance techniques for domestic and commercial carpeting*.

While continuing to provide suitable and appropriate maintenance techniques to achieve an acceptable level of appearance throughout the life of a carpet, the revision has been undertaken to recognize the importance of carpet maintenance as a contributing factor to indoor air quality as well as maximizing both appearance retention and the wear life of a carpet.

Although the methodology of the various systems is unchanged in this edition, the methods included in periodic and corrective cleaning are limited to hot water injection and extraction and, liquid shampoo and dry foam methods. Evidence to date is that absorbent methods and other methods often incorrectly referred to as dry-cleaning methods, while they can be effective in restoring appearance and sustaining wear life, are not conducive to minimal residues remaining in the carpet after cleaning, and are therefore surface cleaning methods. At the same time, the importance of speeding the drying time when aqueous methods are used is emphasized.

This edition of the Standard also updates requirements for carpet cleaning chemicals to cover their known effects on new generation carpets, and sets down new requirements for vacuum cleaner filtration. Recommendations for the disposal of extracted cleaning wastes are included.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	4
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE	5
1.2 OBJECTIVE	5
1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS	5
1.4 DEFINITIONS	5
1.5 CARPET TEXTURE AND COLOUR	5
SECTION 2 GUIDELINES ON CARPET MAINTENANCE	
2.1 PLANNING A MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	7
2.2 OTHER FACTORS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE	8
SECTION 3 CARPET CLEANING CHEMICALS	
3.1 SCOPE OF SECTION	12
3.2 GENERAL COMPOSITION	12
3.3 LIQUID SHAMPOO INCLUDING DRY FOAM CLEANERS	13
3.4 SPOT AND STAIN REMOVAL KIT	13
3.5 ENZYME-CONTAINING SPOT AND STAIN REMOVERS	13
3.6 ABSORBENT COMPOUND CLEANERS	14
3.7 HOT WATER INJECTION AND EXTRACTION CLEANERS	14
SECTION 4 CARPET CLEANING APPARATUS	
4.1 SCOPE OF SECTION	15
4.2 GENERAL	15
4.3 DRY SOIL REMOVAL APPARATUS	15
4.4 SURFACE CLEANING APPARATUS	17
4.5 CORRECTIVE OR RESTORATIVE CLEANING APPARATUS	17
SECTION 5 CARPET CLEANING TECHNIQUES	
5.1 SCOPE OF SECTION	21
5.2 INSPECTION CHECK BEFORE COMMENCING CLEANING	21
5.3 DRY SOIL REMOVAL	21
5.4 SURFACE CLEANING	22
5.5 CORRECTIVE OR RESTORATIVE CLEANING	25
SECTION 6 DISPOSAL OF EXTRACTED CLEANING WASTE	33
APPENDICES	
A HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS WHICH MAY DAMAGE CARPETS	34
B STAIN REMOVAL	35
C TESTS TO AID FIBRE IDENTIFICATION	43

FOREWORD

The purpose of carpet maintenance is twofold: to retain the original texture and appearance of carpet for as long as possible, and to ensure that it is hygienic. This is achieved by keeping the total soil content, including visible stains, to an absolute minimum by cleaning. When conducted regularly and efficiently this will both prolong the life of a carpet and minimize possible health problems due to the accumulation of soils and microflora within carpet pile.

It is not traffic alone that wears out carpets, but also soil on and in the carpet. Whenever people enter a building, they carry a certain amount of soil, mud and grit on their shoes. This soil is deposited on the floor coverings, and eventually works its way down into the pile.

To prolong the life of the carpet and protect the investment, soil should be kept to an absolute minimum. The principal way that can be done effectively is by regular and systematic cleaning with soil removal equipment. The importance of regular vacuum-cleaning with efficient equipment cannot be overemphasized.

The type of equipment and maintenance program should be chosen with regard to the area to be cleaned, number of obstructions present, traffic load on the surface, style of carpet, carpet fibre type, availability of utilities and the cleaning frequencies required, degree and nature of soiling, colour of carpet, and required appearance.

The selection of equipment and cleaning aids, including machinery accessories, is most important for optimizing the removal of smaller sized soil particles with the potential to affect health.

Where any doubt exists as to the best method of cleaning a carpet, expert advice should be sought before cleaning is attempted.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard**Textile floor coverings—Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard provides specifications and guidelines for maintenance techniques for textile floor coverings.

This Standard is applicable to the maintenance of both residential and commercial carpets.

1.2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide cleaning practitioners and consumers with minimum requirements for cleaning maintenance programs and cleaning techniques to enable textile floor coverings to be kept in a good and hygienic condition.

1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protection devices

2454 Textile floor coverings—Terminology

Worksafe Australia National Model Regulations

NOHSC:1005 (1991) Control of workplace hazardous substances

NOHSC:2007 (1991) National Code of Practice—Control of workplace hazardous substances

1.4 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 2454 apply.

1.5 CARPET TEXTURE AND COLOUR

1.5.1 Texture There are two basic textures as follows:

- (a) *Loop pile*—loops of yarn commonly of uniform length.
- (b) *Cut pile*—the tufts are cut. This texture, depending on the pile height and yarn twist level, can be described as velour, velvet, saxony, plush, semi-shag, shag or twist pile.

Variations to these two basic textures include the following:

- (i) *Multi-level loop pile*—where the loops of yarn are at different heights.
- (ii) *Cut and loop pile*—created by cutting some loops while leaving others uncut, at the same level or at a different level.
- (iii) *Hard-twist cut pile*—where the yarns are highly twisted and set into this position prior to manufacture of the carpet, to produce a carpet texture which may have randomly curled tuft ends.



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