



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Carpet Cleaning 101



It can be a struggle to keep your carpets clean and presentable. Should you hire a professional cleaning service or take care of the maintenance on your own? Follow this advice to keep your carpet in top shape.

Dirt and vacuuming: Dirt can be damaging to your carpet, acting as small razor blades that shred the fibers. When this happens, the sheen of the fibers deteriorates, making the carpet look dull and dated. Vacuum regularly to avoid this issue. High-traffic areas should be vacuumed twice a week, and less-used areas once a week. Quicker passes can be made over the low-traffic areas, while the areas that people walk on frequently require at least two slow passes to ensure all grime is removed.

Hot-water extraction: Vacuuming helps with day-to-day cleaning, but you'll also want professional help. While a do-it-yourself (DIY) carpet washer will remove the surface level of dirt, deep cleaning will eliminate the dust, allergens and grease between the fibers. A professional carpet cleaner applies detergent to the carpets, followed by a hot-water rinse solution. Then moisture is removed with a high-powered vacuum. Use this service every 12-18 months.

DIY Washing Tips for using carpet-cleaning equipment:

- Clean your carpet before it becomes filthy.
- Pretreat stains or blemishes with detergent and let them sit for 5-10 minutes prior to cleaning.
- Vacuum well before and after washing.
- Don't oversoak the carpet—DIY machines don't have enough suction to remove large amounts of water.
- Open your windows and use fans and dehumidifiers to help the carpet dry when you're done.

Winter Home Prep

The weather is still hot and humid, but cooler weather will be arriving before you know it. Preparing your property for the cold and snow may seem daunting but being proactive can make it easier. A well-thought-out plan in the fall for home winterization can save time and alleviate stress as temperatures drop. Companies that provide winterization services will be more readily available in early fall. Use this checklist to track your progress as you prepare for the upcoming winter season.

Gutter Care

- Clean mid-fall, and double-check your work to avoid clogs.
- Consider leaf guards to prevent debris from accumulating.

Heating System

- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Hire an expert to check your furnace's efficiency.
- Test your heating system before you need to use it.

Chimney, Roofing & Decks

- Clean all chimneys and wood stoves prior to use.
- Check for damaged shingles or gutters.
- Add sealer to your deck to prevent snow from damaging the structure.

Doors & Windows

- Check for gaps in doors and windows where warm air can escape.
- Weatherproof with caulking or weather stripping for all drafty areas.
- Consider double-paned windows to increase energy efficiency.

Supply Check

- Make sure you have a snow shovel.
- Store extra canned food and water in case of emergency.



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE THOMSEN TEAM, A MEMBER OF
THE RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE COUNCIL**