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Carpet Extraction: 6 Best Practices



Properly maintained carpets out-perform hard surface floors in trapping foreign allergens that could potentially have negative health impacts. Additionally, carpet can also improve overall air quality, according to a study by Airmid Healthgroup Limited, a biomedical research organization.

The operative words here are "**properly maintained carpets**" which translates into using **high performance vacuum cleaners and hot water extraction on a regular schedule.**

Hot water **extraction is particularly important following winter months**, as inclement weather tracks outside contaminants into your building. If extraction cleaning is not implemented to remove the salt and ice melt residue, the carpets are damaged due to the stripping of their chemical compounds.

If you follow best practices in carpet extraction, it can extend the carpet's life and prevent premature replacement. Some properly maintained commercial carpet can last up to 20 years!

Our carpet experts, along with the expertise of the Carpet & Rug Institute (CRI), share these **top five best extraction practices:**

1. **Vacuum first** using a [commercial vacuum cleaner with HEPA filtration](#)
2. **Apply pre-spray and agitate into fibers.** Follow manufacturer's directions and allow proper dwell time.
3. **Use [commercial extraction machine](#)** to remove chemical and soil. Our EnCap System Extraction Carpet Cleaner [preserves the stain resistant properties of the fibers](#), and actually replenishes them. The low foam formula eliminates the need for a de-foamer in the recovery tank, saving time and money. Additionally, it has the CRI Seal of Approval.
4. Provide **natural or [mechanical ventilation to speed drying time](#)**
5. Facility-wide **extraction cleaning should be done before soil in the carpet is easily**

- visible.** It is recommended that extraction be performed.
6. If you encounter **stubborn salt residue**, **clean with a more acidic pH cleaner**, as road salt has a higher alkaline content.

Using water that exceeds 200° F will provide maximum extraction effectiveness, unless you are cleaning wool carpet or protein-based stains such as blood, eggs and gravy.

Call FITCH CO's carpet experts at 800-424-9300 for more information and detailed carpet extraction guidance.

[Rent a Commercial Extractor from us!](#)

[Download CRI's Carpet Maintenance Guidelines](#)

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