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AS 3733—1990

Australian Standard®

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**Textile floor coverings—Cleaning  
maintenance techniques for  
domestic and commercial carpeting**

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**STANDARDS AUSTRALIA** 

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TX/9, Carpets. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 20 July 1989 and published on 9 February 1990.

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The following interests are represented on Committee TX/9:

Australian Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association  
Australian Retailers Association  
Australian Wool Corporation  
AWTA Textile Testing  
Carpet Institute of Australia  
Commercial Carpet Suppliers' Association of NSW  
Confederation of Australian Industry  
CSIRO, Division of Wool Technology  
Department of Administrative Services—Australian Construction Services  
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.  
Government Supply Department, N.S.W.  
Melbourne College of Textiles  
Plastics Institute of Australia Inc  
Royal Australian Institute of Architects  
Textile Clothing & Footwear Council of Australia  
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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 88111.*

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**Textile floor coverings—Cleaning  
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First published as AS 3733—1990.

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Carpets under the direction of the Textile Standards Board. It provides consumers with suitable and appropriate maintenance techniques to achieve an acceptable level of appearance throughout the life of the carpet they have purchased.

The organizations who contributed information include—

Carpet Cleaning Associations  
Carpet Cleaning Chemicals and Spot Remover Manufacturers  
Carpet Fibre Marketing Organizations  
Carpet Manufacturers

These organizations collectively issue the following warnings:

- (a) Household chemicals may contain harmful chemicals and may damage carpets and other fabrics.
- (b) Read the warning labels on all household products before using them to remove spots and stains.
- (c) Remember that your carpet is an expensive investment and precautions need to be taken to protect its appearance.

Section 3 of this Standard may be revised in future editions on the basis of a Standard being produced by the Standards Australia Committee on Carpet Shampoos.

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD .....	4
<b>SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL</b>	
1.1 SCOPE .....	5
1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	5
1.3 DEFINITIONS .....	5
1.4 CARPET TEXTURE AND COLOUR .....	5
<b>SECTION 2. GUIDELINES ON CARPET MAINTENANCE</b>	
2.1 PLANNING A MAINTENANCE PROGRAM .....	6
2.2 OTHER FACTORS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE .....	6
<b>SECTION 3. CARPET CLEANING CHEMICALS</b>	
3.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	9
3.2 GENERAL COMPOSITION .....	9
3.3 LIQUID SHAMPOO CLEANERS .....	9
3.4 SPOT AND STAIN REMOVAL KIT .....	9
3.5 POWDER CLEANERS .....	9
3.6 HOT WATER INJECTION AND EXTRACTION CLEANERS .....	9
<b>SECTION 4. CARPET CLEANING APPARATUS</b>	
4.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	11
4.2 GENERAL .....	11
4.3 DRY SOIL REMOVAL .....	11
4.4 SURFACE CLEANING AND AREA TOUCH-UP .....	11
4.5 PERIODIC OR CORRECTIVE CLEANING .....	13
<b>SECTION 5. CARPET CLEANING TECHNIQUES</b>	
5.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	15
5.2 DRY SOIL REMOVAL .....	15
5.3 SURFACE CLEANING AND AREA TOUCH-UP .....	15
5.4 PERIODIC OR CORRECTIVE CLEANING .....	15
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
A HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS WHICH MAY DAMAGE CARPETS .....	22
B STAIN REMOVAL .....	23
C BURNING TESTS AS AN AID TO FIBRE IDENTIFICATION .....	30

## FOREWORD

The purpose of carpet maintenance is to retain the original appearance and texture of the carpet for as long as possible. This is achieved by keeping soil content and stains to a minimum, which will, in turn, prolong the life of the carpet.

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 this can be done effectively is by regular and systematic cleaning with soil removal equipment.

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.

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## Textile floor coverings—Cleaning maintenance techniques for domestic and commercial carpeting

## SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE.** This Standard provides specifications and guidelines for maintenance techniques for textile floor coverings, to enable owners to maintain their carpets in good condition.

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

**1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following document is referred to in this Standard:

AS

2454 Textile floor coverings—Definitions, terminology, and structure classification

**1.3 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 2454 and that below apply.

**1.3.1 Textile floor coverings**—a product having a use-surface composed of textile material, and generally used for covering floors.

NOTE: Textile floor covering is synonymous with the terms carpet and carpeting.

#### 1.4 CARPET TEXTURE AND COLOUR.

**1.4.1 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.

**1.4.2 Colour styles**—include the following:

- (a) *Plain colour*—where the fibres or yarns are of one uniform colour.
- (b) *Patterned*—where the fibres or yarns are of different colours, and the carpet is manufactured or printed to a design.
- (c) *Berber*—where a mixture of earthy tones similar to those of naturally pigmented wools, are used in a flecky or mottled pattern.  
NOTE: Naturally pigmented fibres may be used but conventionally dyed fibres are more common.
- (d) *Tweed*—where flecks of various colours are incorporated into a pile yarn similar to Berber, except with colours other than earthy tones.
- (e) *Heather*—similar to berber and tweed without the small colour flecks.
- (f) *Stipple*—where pile yarn consists of two or more colours or tones.

NOTE: None of the above colour styles are restricted to any one fibre type. These terms and others are expanded upon in AS 2454.