

## Carpet Cleaning

### Residential Carpet Cleaning Frequency Chart

The following chart from the ***IICRC S100 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Carpet Cleaning*** serves as a guideline for recommending cleaning frequencies for carpet. They consider traffic, soil rating, vacuuming schedules, spot cleaning schedules, and professional interim and restorative cleaning.

| Traffic Soil Rating                                | Carpet Owner/Maintainer |                                       | Professional Carpet Cleaner/Restorer |  |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|  | Vacuuming               | Spot Cleaning                         | Heavy-Use Area Cleaning              | Restorative Cleaning                       |
| Light Soil   | 1x per week             | Daily or as soon as spots are noticed | Traffic areas every 12 to 18 months  | Every 2 years or per manufacturer warranty |
| Normal Soil (families with children, elderly)      | 1 to 2 x per week       | Daily or as soon as spots are noticed | Traffic areas every 6 to 12 months   | Annually                                   |
| Heavy Soil (families with pets, smoking)           | 2 to 4 x per week       | Daily or as soon as spots are noticed | Traffic areas every 3 to 6 months    | Semi-annually (2x annually)                |
| Extreme Conditions (large families, multiple pets) | Daily                   | Daily or as soon as spots are noticed | Traffic lanes every 2 to 3 months    | Quarterly (4x annually)                    |

**Question:** How long does it take mold to start growing in wet carpet?

**Answer:** There is no defined time frame to predict when mold will grow in carpet. For any material to support common indoor mold growth, it must:

1. be organic,
2. be damp or wet,
3. have a moderate temperature (68-86°F),
4. be in a stagnant air environment, and
5. have these conditions present for several days.

Most tufted carpet is made of plastic face yarns and backings, and synthetic latex. There is nothing organic to support mold in the carpet itself. Therefore, mold cannot technically grow on carpet. However, average household soil is about 40% organic (12% cellulose, 12% protein, 10% oils, 6% food stuffs); therefore, mold can grow on the soil in carpet given the right conditions listed above.

However, if carpet is kept clean and dry, there is little or no possibility for mold growth. Even with soiling and normal household conditions found in most homes, it takes considerable time for mold to grow on carpet soil, and then only if dampness is present.

**Question:** What is the standard drying time when carpet is cleaned?

**Answer:** With normal temperature and humidity coupled with use of your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, the carpet should be dry in six to eight hours. However, drying time must not exceed 24 hours. . Often, occupant cooperation is needed to expedite drying. If the carpet stays damp longer than that, the opportunity for microbial growth and associated odor arises.

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