

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

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



AS/NZS 3733:2018

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee TX-009, Carpets. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 November 2018 and by the New Zealand Standards Approval Board on 6 November 2018.

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The following are represented on Committee TX-009:

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Industry Group
AWTA Product Testing (Testing Interests Australia)
Carpet Institute of Australia
Floorcovering Association of NSW
Floorcovering Association of Victoria
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TX-009, Carpets, to supersede AS/NZS 3733:1995, *Textile floor coverings—Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting*.

NOTE: The term ‘textile floor covering’ is applicable to carpeting in roll, sheet and modular (tile and plank) form.

This Standard has been extensively revised and updated, in summary, as follows:

- (a) With recognition of the advancements in detergent technology and that all cleaning maintenance methods, when carried out by competent textile floor covering cleaning technicians using the methods in this Standard, can have a positive effect on a textile floor covering. While aimed at maximizing the wear life of textile floor coverings, maintenance of textile floor coverings as a contributing factor to indoor air quality and the health of building occupants has been emphasized.
- (b) The need for safe work practices, hygiene control and methods to help prevent cross contamination in vulnerable person’s facilities has been emphasized.
- (c) Recommendations for the disposal of extracted cleaning wastes have been included and the need for efficient use of natural water resources emphasized.

There are five basic systems of textile floor covering cleaning recognized in this Standard based on the mechanical action involved in the cleaning process.

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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FOREWORD

The purpose of textile floor covering maintenance is twofold: to retain the original texture and appearance of textile floor covering for as long as possible, and to ensure that it is hygienic and contributes positively to the indoor environment. This is achieved by keeping the total soiling content, including visible stains, to an absolute minimum by cleaning. When conducted regularly and effectively, this will both prolong the life of a textile floor covering and minimize possible health problems that may be caused by the accumulation of soils and microflora within the pile of the textile floor covering.

It is not traffic alone that wears out textile floor coverings, but also soil on and in the textile floor covering, caused by people entering a building, carrying soil, mud, grit and other contaminants on their footwear, in conjunction with airborne contaminants that can also originate from within the building and cause soiling. These contaminants are deposited on the textile floor covering eventually working their way down into the pile.

A textile floor covering tends to trap this soiling. This helps to maintain better indoor air quality by holding the soiling at floor level instead of allowing it to circulate throughout the building.

To maintain a healthy indoor environment, prolong the life of the textile floor covering and protect the investment, soiling 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.

While regular vacuuming will help reduce the soiling load within the indoor environment, the gradual build-up of oily and other sticky soiling will reduce the effectiveness of the vacuuming. This oily and/or sticky soiling can be removed by the use of specialist cleaning agents using a variety of methods and 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 textile floor covering, textile floor covering fibre type, availability of utilities and the cleaning frequencies required, degree and nature of soiling, colour of textile floor covering and required appearance. Consideration should also be given to the selection and use of methods, chemicals and equipment that have a minimal effect on the environment. Whichever method is chosen, it should be carried out with skill, in accordance with this Standard to ensure the least resources, including water, are used to achieve the best possible result.

It is strongly recommended textile floor covering cleaning technicians be sought that are members of a recognized industry association, with proven training qualifications and a high level of expertise. They should also have proven compliance with workplace health and safety requirements, including risk assessments, safe work methods, job safety analysis and an understanding of basic infection control procedures.

Textile floor covering owners should be aware that textile floor coverings can become permanently stained or damaged by certain soiling or use conditions and that even corrective cleaning may not always be able to reverse the damage caused to the textile floor covering by soiling, staining and lack of proper maintenance (including installation or manufacturing defects). Specialized advanced levels of treatments that are not covered in this Standard may be available.

If any doubt exists before cleaning is attempted as to the appropriate method of cleaning a particular textile floor covering, the textile floor covering manufacturer's warranty statement and instructions should be followed. If the textile floor covering manufacturer's instructions are not available, a competent person with extensive experience in textile floor covering cleaning maintenance should be consulted.

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard provides requirements, techniques and guidelines for cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial textile floor coverings.

NOTE: The term 'textile floor covering' is applicable to broadloom, sheet and modular or tile carpeting.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide cleaning practitioners, textile floor covering manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, specifiers and consumers with minimum requirements for cleaning maintenance programs and cleaning techniques to enable textile floor coverings to be kept in a good, clean and hygienic condition.

1.3 NORMATIVE REFERENCES

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document:

NOTE: Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS/NZS

1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protection devices

1.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions given in AS 2454 and those below apply:

1.4.1 Competent person

A person who has acquired, through education, training, qualification or experience or a combination of these, the knowledge and skill enabling that person to perform the task required.

1.4.2 May

Indicates the existence of an option.

1.4.3 Shall

Indicates that a statement is mandatory.

1.4.4 Should

Indicates a recommendation.