

Discovering Hydrogen Peroxide Carpet Care

by Virginia Petru

Nursing homes, healthcare facilities, schools, and other facilities have begun to realize the benefits for using hydrogen peroxide cleaners on carpeted floor areas. This is because hydrogen peroxide is a natural deodorizer as it attacks the source of the odor instead of masking it. The secret is in the formulation of orange oil, hydrogen peroxide and surfactants. The orange oil penetrates the carpet, allowing the hydrogen peroxide to do its job, delivering an oxygen boost to the surfactant action and oxidizing (destroying) the organic material that is creating the odor.

Types of H2O2 Carpet Cleaners

There are two types of hydrogen peroxide carpet cleaners. One formulation is a multi-purpose hydrogen peroxide cleaner. This cleaner provides simplicity because it will clean practically 95% of your facility. With the right heavy-duty hydrogen peroxide multi-purpose cleaner, even the most daunting tannin stains (such as red wine, cola, and coffee) will disappear before your eyes. For facilities that welcome small animals, the deodorizing and stain-removing power of hydrogen peroxide is a mandatory addition to the cleaning arsenal.

The second type of hydrogen peroxide-based carpet cleaner delivers an extra boost specifically for carpet care. The formulation combines the cleaning, brightening, and deodorizing characteristics of hydrogen peroxide with crystallizing polymers. After the hydrogen peroxide breaks down the soil, the polymers encapsulate it for removal with either a hot water extractor or a vacuum.

Low Residue Advantages

Perhaps the main culprit that leads to resoiling carpet fibers is the detergent residue left behind after spotting or cleaning with

a traditional carpet cleaner. Hydrogen peroxide formulations use significantly less surfactants than traditional carpet cleaners, so they start out with less chemical that may be left behind.

Keep in mind that when a hydrogen peroxide cleaner chemically reacts with soil, it breaks down to just oxygen and water. Therefore, there is no residue created from the chemical reaction that can be left behind. The result is a carpet cleaner that leaves carpets practically residue-free, and cleaner for a longer period of time.

What Carpet Manufacturers Recommend

Many carpet manufacturers recognize the advantages of hydrogen peroxide cleaning technology in maintaining their carpet products. Mannington Commercial recommends its customers use H2Orange2 Carpet Complete by EnvirOx, LLC, a hydrogen peroxide-based formulation that contains encapsulating polymers because the technology delivers superior cleaning results with little to no residue.

Mannington Commercial recommends that the hydrogen peroxide cleaner be applied as a pre-spray to allow the solution to be in contact with the soil for a longer period of time, allowing it to break down the soil.

It is advised to work the solution into the carpet using the Duplex DP420 by North American Cleaning Equipment, then rinse or extract with hot water only. Mannington notes that using water only in the extraction machine will ensure the chemical and dirt is rinsed out of the carpet, while further reducing the amount of residue that may be left behind.



CRI Seal of Approval

The Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) helps simplify the purchase of carpet cleaners with its Seal of Approval program. In order for a product to obtain the CRI Seal of Approval, an independent, accredited laboratory puts the product through many stringent tests. According to the CRI, the tests measure the product's:

- Efficacy: ability to remove stains
- Resoiling: whether the product attracts soil at an accelerated rate.
- pH: pH values that are very low (acid) or very high (alkaline) can affect carpet dyes and fibers
- Optical Brightness: can adversely affect color, appearance, and performance
- Colorfastness to light: residues on pile yarn can accelerate color change

So, the next time you reach for a carpet cleaner, consider the capabilities of hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners and reference the CRI Seal of Approval list.

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