

# Wool Carpet Care Guide

*Simple Solutions for Maintaining Wool Carpets*

2024



**IW  
TO**   
International Wool  
Textile Organisation

## CARING FOR WOOL CARPETING IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

This wool carpet care guide is compiled by a committee of wool experts in consultation with WoolSafe®, an organization devoted to advanced research in care and maintenance of wool products. To use the guide, search for the type of spill from the list and follow the steps in the columns to the right. Each number corresponds to a treatment plan in the table on the next page.

SPOT REMOVAL GUIDE				
SPILL TYPE	STEP	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Beer	2			
Bleach, rust, or old urine stain	7			
Blood	2	8	11	17
Burn or scorch marks	5	1		
Butter and cream	3	9	15	17
Candle wax	6	13	9	17
Chewing gum	4	13	9	15
Chocolate, cocoa	3	9	15	17
Coffee, cola, syrup, or tea	2	9	16	15
Dirt, soil, or mud	1	10	16	
Egg	3	10	11	17
Feces, vomit	3	11	15	17
Felt-tip pen	9	16	15	17
Fruit juice	2	9	16	17
Furniture polish	2	9	16	17
Glue, adhesive	14	13	16	17
Gravy, sauces	3	9	15	17
Ink (fountain)	2	8	9	15
Ink (ballpoint pen)	12	16	9	15
Lipstick	3	9	12	
Metal polish	2	9	15	17
Milk	2	8	11	19
Mustard	3	9	15	17
Oil, grease	2	13	16	17
Paint (emulsion)	3	8	16	17
Shoe polish	1	7		
Nail varnish	14	16	17	
Paint (oil)	3	13	16	15
Soot or pollen	18	1		
Tar (asphalt)	3	13	16	17
Urine (fresh stain)	2	11	15	17
Wine (red and rosé)	2	9	15	17

## TREATMENT PLAN

1	Vacuum clean thoroughly when area is dry.
2	Blot up as much of the spill as possible using a clean cloth or paper towel.
3	Scoop up as much of the spill as possible with a spoon or blunt knife then blot with paper towel.
4	Freeze with ice cubes in a plastic bag and use a task-specific chewing gum remover and scrape.
5	Rub gently with a coin and brush off.
6	Place brown paper on spot and heat gently with iron on low heat (100% wool fibre only).
7	Seek assistance from a professional cleaner.
8	Apply clean water to a white cloth and blot. Repeat until no more stain transfers to the cloth.
9	Apply a pre-tested spot remover to a white cloth and blot.
10	Apply a pre-tested carpet shampoo.
11	Apply a pre-tested pet stain remover.
12	Apply rubbing alcohol carefully to the area of the stain only, leave for 5 minutes and blot.
13	Apply mineral spirits to the area of the stain only, leave for 5 minutes and blot.
14	Apply acetone or lanolin-free nail polish remover carefully to the area of the stain only, leave for 5 minutes & blot.
15	Repeat the blotting with clean warm water again to remove any residues.
16	Blot with clean white cotton cloth or paper towel and repeat application and blotting if necessary.
17	Dry the treated area with white cloth or paper towel and align the pile.
18	Place sticky tape on top and peel back, repeat.
19	Apply a pre-tested disinfectant or deodorizer.

## GENERAL ADVICE

- Address spills or stains promptly. Removing a fresh stain is always easier than removing an old stain.
- Refer to the stain guide to determine if you should treat the stain yourself. In case of extensive or old, set-in stains, consult a professional cleaner with experience in wool carpets.
- Always contain and gather up as much of the soil/stain as possible before applying any treatment or cleaner.
- Always pre-test any treatment or cleaner in an inconspicuous area of the carpet before treating the stain.
- Always apply treatment or cleaner with a cotton cloth, never directly on the stain. Wear rubber gloves.
- Never use cleaning products not intended for carpet as they may leave sticky residues that cause rapid soiling.
- Use small quantities of treatment or cleaner at a time. Two or three light applications are more effective than a single large application.
- Ensure not to over wet the carpet.
- Always work from the edge of the stain towards the middle. This avoids spreading the stain.
- Blot, never rub or scour.
- Use cleaning products with care and ensure good ventilation.
- Rinse out water-based treatments and cleaners with clean water.

