



Vacuums are the most important element in the maintenance of carpet and overall appearance of the facility. Vacuums are designed to remove dry soil, which accounts for 85 percent of soil tracked into the building. Frequent usage captures dirt at the surface before it settles and becomes more difficult to remove. A quality vacuum is vital to prolonging the life of your carpet.

Hot water extraction cleans the oily materials that vacuums cannot remove, which accounts for 15 percent of all soil. The frequency of hot water extraction should be defined by the maintenance schedule, if the carpet looks dull or dirty between cleanings the frequency should be increased. Proximity to areas with a high content of oily soil may require more hot water extractions.

1. Thoroughly vacuum all carpet.
2. Apply a traffic lane cleaner.
3. Agitate carpet to allow cleaner to penetrate. Allow 10 minute dwell time.
4. Extract with an extraction unit that can apply rinse water at a rate greater than one gallon per minute, with sufficient recovery power to avoid over-wetting the carpet. Do not use extraction machines that recycle water.

* Do not use cleaning agents containing optical brighteners or silicon-based anti-soil treatments.

* Self-contained, walk-behind machines that apply a cleaning solution at a rate balanced with the recovery capability of the machine do not perform as well as a high-performance extractor. These machines should be used as an interim method, supplemented by periodic high-performance cleaning.