

Introduction to Carpet Protectors



Paradigm adjustments are necessitated by changes in the type of carpet being manufactured in the 21st century. The growth of polyester and triexta carpet has been significant. It used to be that you could carry one type of carpet protector on your truck or at your shop. Today you need to focus on the fibers that you are protecting and not on the one protector that works best most of the time.

In general there are four benefits of protecting carpet: soil resistance, stain resistance, oil repellency and water repellency. All protectors for carpet should provide soil resistance. Fibers with open dye sites (nylon & Wool) should have stain resistance which is provided by acid dye resisters. Essentially an acid dye resister is a light amber dye which fills any remaining open dye sites thereby limiting stains in those fibers. Some fibers love oil and protection should be focused on limiting the bonding of the oil to the polyester fibers. No protector does it all well.

Steps to Professional Carpet Protection

- Identify fiber type: nylon fibers will absorb liquid and sink to the bottom of a glass of water while polyester type fibers will float on the surface. Wool fibers will burn like hair while nylon and polyester fibers will melt into a hard bead.
- Test for dye stability if appropriate for carpet fiber.
- Thoroughly clean and extract the carpet. The goal is to remove as much residue as possible.
- Determine the application rate from label

directions on the protector label. Mix up the amount of protector necessary for proper application.

- Apply the appropriate protector to the carpet fiber. Water-based protectors are required for carpet. Anionic acid dye resisters with or without fluorochemical are the protectors of choice for nylon and wool carpet. These protectors provide excellent stain and soil resistance. Cationic fluorochemicals are the protectors of choice for polyester type carpets. These protectors provide excellent oil repellency and soil resistance.
- Apply to freshly cleaned carpet using an electric or battery powered sprayer maintaining 35 to 50 psi with an 8004 or 8005 TeeJet nozzle. Apply over entire carpet surface, but focus on applying more to traffic lanes. Experience instructs us that foot traffic and cleaning will remove some protector. Brush or rake the carpet to ensure even coverage.
- Allow proper drying before allowing normal traffic. A 1 to 2 dilution will dry quicker than a 1 to 4 dilution if label instructions approve of different dilutions

