

Carpet Seams

Seams should be of a good appearance from a standing position, however, seams will normally be somewhat visible, and some of the contributing factors to seam visibility are:

- ❑ Peaking: due to the additional thickness of seam tape and the action of the heat from the seaming iron, slight peaking can occur at the seam. This will be particularly apparent in lower profile and velvet-type textures.
- ❑ Textures: various textures have an effect on seam visibility. Loop pile, loop pile Berber, and dense velvet finishes will generally create more visible seams than other textures.
- ❑ Light: seams lying parallel to an outside light source (windows) have greater visibility because of the shadow effect- the light creates a shadow at the seam and makes it appear more pronounced.

Peaking normally occurs at the seam when the carpet is power-stretched according to industry requirements: as the fibers in the carpet-backing stretch, the fiberglass scrim in the seaming tape does not stretch (because it is designed to hold the seam tightly together), and the physical force applied causes it to rise slightly.

In most cases, a few months of normal wear and traffic will cause the stretched fibers to relax and the peak will go down.

Many homeowners express concern about the peaking, but they should be assured that this is a sign of proper stretching which ensures that the carpet will wear well, retain its appearance, and last longer.

Recommended Maintenance Tips for Your Carpet

- Don't allow dirt to build up
Prevention of the accumulation of dirt is important to your carpet's beauty and long life. Place washable floor mats in front of all entrances and doorways to avoid tracking of dirt and particles from the outside. Be sure to clean the mats often.
- Vacuum regularly
Vacuum your carpet at least once a week. You can never over-vacuum in the same direction.
- Clean spills immediately
Never allow a spill to soak or set into your carpet, no matter what is spilled, including normal tap water. Spilled materials can discolor carpet and increase soiling if not promptly removed. Whenever possible, restrict food and drink to non-carpeted areas.
- Change filters regularly
Change filters in your heating and air conditioning systems on a regular basis or when dirty. Dust, pollen, and smoke can settle on your carpet and increase staining and soiling.
- Cleaning spills
When a spill occurs, firmly blot it dry with white paper towel or a clean white cloth. Do not rub the spot, as it will damage your carpet's tufts and may alter your carpet's appearance. If stains remain, spray with cold water and blot again. Repeat as necessary.
- Cleaning stains
First scoop up or blot as much of the spill as possible from the carpet. With a white cloth, blot from the edges toward the center of the stain until dry.
 - For asphalt, butter, chocolate, cooking oil, furniture polish, grease, food, lipstick, mascara, oil paint, shoe polish, or tar:

Apply a small amount of dry-cleaning fluid (non-oil type commonly used for spot removal from garments) to a dry white cloth towel and blot. Repeat and blot with paper towels until the spot is dry.
 - For ice cream, latex paint, excrement, mayonnaise, milk, vomit, or white wine:

Apply a small amount of mild detergent or a mild non-bleach type solution to a dry white cloth towel and blot. Repeat and blot with paper towels until the spot is dry. Use only ¼ teaspoon of detergent to 32 ounces of water.

- For fruit drinks, berries, blood, coffee, fruit juice, ketchup, mustard, soft drinks, tea, and red wine:

Repeat the above procedure, and then add 1 part white vinegar to 1 part water solution. Repeat as necessary until the stain is gone.

NEVER APPLY DETERGENTS OR STAIN REMOVER DIRECTLY TO YOUR CARPET!

This could cause permanent discoloration. For recommended cleaners and solvents, call the fiber producer. When a stain reappears after cleaning, it usually indicates that all of the stain and cleaners were not completely removed. Recleaning is necessary. Always rinse your carpet thoroughly to remove any detergent residue.

- Keep chemicals and bleaching agents away from the carpet
There are many household products that contain chemicals that may permanently stain or remove color from your carpet. Be extra careful to avoid spilling the following items on your carpet:
 - Bathroom, kitchen, oven, and drain cleaners
 - Swimming pool chemicals
 - Substances that alter colors, such as bleaching agents, acne medications, and other caustic chemicals or cleaners.
- Professional Carpet Cleaning
Choose your professional carpet cleaner carefully and call one of the fiber companies listed below for recommended cleaning procedures. Even areas of your carpet that get little or no traffic are affected by dust and oils in the air. To remove this dulling film, you should have your carpet professionally cleaned at least once a year.

Toll-Free Numbers for Carpet Care:

Allied Fiber	1-800-441-8185
DuPont	1-800-4DUPONT
Monsanto	1-800-BESTBUY
3M Scotchgard	1-800-433-3296