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## Appendices

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This guide explains how Interface products perform against traffic and soil.

It describes the steps in developing an economical and effective maintenance plan which will enhance the appearance and extend the life of Interface products.
01 Planning – Cleaning and Maintenance

With any Interface product investment, a planned and implemented maintenance program is the key to ensuring maximum life of these products. Waiting until the carpet is overly soiled may affect appearance retention.

Guided by this plan, maintenance can be concentrated in the high traffic areas and any areas that rapidly re-soil, with periodic all-over cleaning to prolong the useful life of Interface products.

Appearance maintenance

There are two key factors that will affect the appearance of Interface products after installation:

a) Flattening, matting or shading of the carpet fibre.

b) Soiling, change in colour and general staining of the carpet.

Maintaining the appearance of Interface products requires that:

a) Products selected are appropriate for their intended area of use.

b) Regular cleaning is carried out to prevent soiling, which may cause carpet fibres to mat and bind together.

Soil prevention and maintenance routines

Most soil is transferred to the carpet from foot traffic. The use of an effective dirt barrier matting will greatly reduce the rate of soiling. Dirt barrier matting should be installed for the first three metres (minimum) of all external entrances, goods lifts, loading and off-loading docks and adjoining hard areas. For more information contact an Interface Account Manager.

It is very important that the dirt barrier matting is maintained and serviced on a daily basis. Once the dirt barrier matting is full of soil, it ceases to be effective. For further information please refer to AS/NZS 3733: 1995 paragraph 2.24.

All concrete areas adjoining Interface products should be sealed with an appropriate permanent resinous sealer which will prevent particles of sand, gravel or cement being tracked onto the carpet. An epoxy or urethane sealer is recommended.

These sealed areas should be thoroughly cleaned daily, removing any visible soil and stains by mopping with a neutral pH level detergent.

The use of an anti-soiling spray on Interface products is not recommended.
Prompt action using the Interface Carpet Spot Cleaning Kit assists in easy, complete removal of most spots and stains. The following initial procedures should be applied to treat all spillages and stains on your Interface products.

If the spill is liquid, blot up as much of the spill as possible with a clean white cloth. If the spill is semi-solid, scrape with a spoon or spatula and then blot with a damp sponge. Work from the edge of the spot towards the centre. Never rub a wet spill; this will only spread the problem.

If the spill proves difficult to remove remember that the advantage of using Interface Modular Carpet Tile is that the offending tile can be replaced with a tile from your shelf stock.

**Water based spillages**

After following the above procedure, promptly remove the remaining residue with a small amount of Dry Absorbent Compound and a hand brush. Sprinkle the Compound over the spot and use a hand brush to gently massage the Compound into the stain. Allow the area to dry (15-30 minutes) and then brush the Compound again. If the Compound seems to stick to the carpet, brush again, then vacuum. Repeat the application if necessary. Do not rub the brush aggressively on the spot.

For difficult to remove coffee, tea, juice or soft drink stains use Mr No Marks in the following manner:

1. Pre - Test a small inconspicuous area for possible discolouration prior to use.
2. Pre - Clean the area using a small amount of Mr No Marks and water.
3. Blot dry with an absorbent cloth or paper towel.
4. Repeat the procedure if necessary.

**Oil based spillages**

For the removal of oily stains such as paint, grease, tar, asphalt, etc., a solvent based spotter such as Fabrisolv, is recommended. Caution should always be taken when using any type of penetrating spotter.

First check colourfastness. Test on the carpet in an inconspicuous area by applying the solution on to a white cloth and gently pressing onto the carpet. Check the cloth, if there is any evidence of dye transfer to the cloth, do not continue.

Apply solvent based spotter sparingly to a clean white cloth, then apply the cloth to the spot. Again do not rub, it will only spread the problem. Wipe gently from the outer edge towards the centre of the spot. Repeat procedure until the spot has been removed. Place a clean white towel or absorbent tissue over the treated area until dry. Follow with an application of Dry Absorbent Compound.

**Dirt barrier tiles** should be installed for the first three metres (minimum) of all external entrances, goods lifts, loading and off-loading docks and adjoining hard areas.

Note: In some products/colours. If a replacement tile from stock is used then expect to see a difference in colour from old to new until the carpet is walked in.

For the removal of oily stains such as paint, grease, tar, asphalt, etc., a solvent based spotter such as Fabrisolv, is recommended.
Gum removal
To remove chewing gum, use the following steps:

1. Apply Fabrisolv directly to the chewing gum.
2. Leave for several minutes to allow Fabrisolv to soften chewing gum.
3. Remove as much gum as possible using a paint scraper or a knife.
4. Apply a small amount of Fabrisolv to a clean white cloth.
5. Working from outside in, remove any residue of the chewing gum.
6. Rinse well with clean water.

Daily removal of spots and spills
Ensure that the Interface Carpet Spot Cleaning Kit is available at all times to enable quick treatment of all spillages. Any stain or spot not removed by an approved method, is to be noted in a daily log, together with details of the methods used in the attempted removal for future reference. If unattended, these stains become difficult to remove and will attract more soil.

For more information on removal of spots and spills, please see Appendices 1: Spot Cleaning and Solution Guide on page 11 of this manual.

02 Planning a Maintenance Program
Carpet can only perform if it is maintained properly. Failure to do so will adversely affect the life and appearance of Interface products.

A maintenance program is a comprehensive plan which maps out the future maintenance schedules for the product. It provides a system which will maintain the appearance retention for the life of the investment. The maintenance program is developed around the traffic volume and soiling rates of the different areas throughout the installation. (See Diagram 1 and Table 1.

Frequencies need to be established in consultation with the Interface Accredited Maintenance Network. Improper techniques and frequencies can risk voiding the end users warranty.

When developing a maintenance program each facility is different therefore all programs must be customised accordingly. Interface offers a comprehensive maintenance planning service via the Accredited Maintenance Network – please contact your Interface Account Manager or the 24/7 Emergency Cleaning & Maintenance helpline: 1800 785 277 for details.
Daily maintenance

Daily maintenance involves day to day vacuuming and carpet spotting utilising the Interface Carpet Spot Cleaning Kit. Heavy traffic areas may require more regular cleaning. Vacuuming should involve recommended equipment, using overlapping passes of the area at a constant speed.

Interim maintenance

Interim maintenance is carried out on a weekly, monthly basis or on demand. It will usually involve an interim cleaning method as required. The maintenance plan will stipulate which areas need to be cleaned. Usually this would be the heavy and medium traffic areas of your installation. The mix of interim and periodic cleaning will vary with each maintenance program.

Periodic maintenance

An integral part of your maintenance program should be a Periodic Clean, which encompasses the entire installation. It is important that on a quarterly, half yearly and/or an annual basis your whole installation is cleaned utilising a Hot Water Injection and Extraction method. This ensures that the appearance of your Interface products are kept uniform. For more information, please call the Interface Customer support on 1800 008 101.

Diagram 1: Example of a graded traffic volume plan for a maintenance program.
**Carpet appearance level: Planned program**

**Planned maintenance program:**
- Traffic areas and spots receive the most attention.
- Appearance will be good every day.
- Carpet life is extended.

**Carpet appearance level: Unplanned**

**Unplanned – crisis cleaning:**
- Carpet is allowed to soil excessively before cleaning.
- Appearance is often dingy.
- It begins to "ugly out" before it wears out.

### Location | Usual Traffic Volume | Suggested Maintenance Program | Suggested Frequency | Minimum Frequency
---|---|---|---|---
Domestic | Light | Full Vacuum | 2 times per week | Weekly
 |  | Spot and stain removal | Daily – ASAP | Daily – ASAP
 |  | Interim clean | Every 6 months | Every 18 months
 |  | Periodic corrective or restorative clean | Yearly | Every 2 years
Executive offices | Light | Full vacuum | 2 times per week | Weekly
 |  | Spot and stain removal | Daily – ASAP | Daily – ASAP
 |  | Interim clean | Every 9 months | Every 18 months
 |  | Periodic corrective or restorative clean | Every 18 months | Every 36 months
Clerical offices, hospital wards, and hotel bedrooms | Medium | Full Vacuum | 3 times per week | 2 times per week
 |  | Spot and stain removal | Daily – ASAP | Daily – ASAP
 |  | Interim clean | Every 6 months | Yearly
 |  | Periodic corrective or restorative clean | Yearly | Every 2 years
Corridors and foyers, ground floor shops, hotel lounges, kindergartens and school classrooms | Heavy | Full Vacuum | Daily | 3 times per week
 |  | Spot and stain removal | Daily – ASAP | Daily – ASAP
 |  | Interim clean | Every 3 months | Every 6 months
 |  | Periodic corrective or restorative clean | Every 6 months | Yearly
Restaurants, schools, corridors and hospital public areas | Very Heavy | Full Vacuum | Daily | Daily
 |  | Spot and stain removal | Daily – ASAP | Daily – ASAP
 |  | Interim clean | Monthly | Every 2 months
 |  | Periodic corrective or restorative clean | Every 3 months | Every 6 months

**Diagram 2:** Carpet appearance level utilising an unplanned maintenance program.

**Diagram 3:** Carpet appearance level utilising an unplanned maintenance program.
03 Maintenance method

To be able to implement the maintenance program access to the correct equipment is essential. Cleaning Interface products with incorrect, non-approved methods, equipment and chemicals may result in damage to the product and invalidation of the warranties.

Vacuum equipment

It is recommended that the following equipment be utilised when vacuuming Interface product:

- Commercial canister-type vacuum with power head containing a rotating cylindrical brush powered by an electric motor.
- Commercial top loading upright vacuum with twin motor and rotating cylindrical brush.

Both vacuums must have tools that can access edges and hidden areas. A requirement for vacuum filtration systems according to Australian Standard AS/NZS 3733-1995 is that vacuums must be capable of filtering 97.5% of dust to 0.5 microns. Vacuum bags should be disposable. (See page 16 for more information on maintenance equipment recommendations.)

Note: SuperFlor S should be vacuumed with a suction only vacuum.

Interim and periodic maintenance method

The following cleaning procedures recommended for use on Interface products should be carried out by trained accredited operators.

a) Dry extraction (Low Moisture Absorbent Compound) (Interim)

Dry extraction involves massaging a low moisture absorbent compound into the carpet surface to remove soil and stains. Residual compound is then vacuumed from the carpet pile.

Method:

1. Thoroughly pile lift and vacuum carpet.
2. Spread the Dry Absorbent Compound as per manufacturer’s instructions.
3. Brush in the Compound as per manufacturer’s instructions.
4. Vacuum the Compound residue from the carpet.
5. Hot water extraction is recommended approximately once a year in conjunction with this system as specified by your carpet maintenance plan.
Encapsulation / Crystalline Shampoo Application (Interim)

The encapsulation/crystalline shampoo method of maintenance is a low-moisture procedure similar in some respects to the dry extraction method. Benefits include faster access to the area than with hot water extraction and reduced drying times.

Preparation should always include vacuuming and pile lifting before applying the Encapsulation/Crystalline Shampoo using an electric sprayer, a simple pump-up garden type sprayer. The carpet pile is then gently brushed so the solution is applied to all the fibres whilst dislodging and dispersing any accumulated soil.

Time should be allowed for the solution to dry and form the encapsulating crystalline formations around the fibre which effectively trap any soils and other contaminants. Drying time will vary according to several factors including humidity, air flow and ambient temperature, but it can be expected to be anything from 60 minutes. Once it is dry the area can be vacuum cleaned and pile lifted.

c) Bonnet Cleaning

**NOTE:** Bonnet cleaning is not recommended and may void all warranties.

d) Hot water injection and extraction (Interim/Periodic)

Hot Water Injection and Extraction involves a pre-spraying of an approved chemical (such as, Fabripower Plus) into the carpet and then extracting it with clean hot water utilising approved equipment and methods. For corrective or restorative cleaning, it is recommended that a trained and accredited Carpet Maintenance Technician perform this task. To reduce interior noise levels during cleaning it is recommended that a truck mounted extraction unit be utilised. Mechanical air movers should be used to aid the drying process.

**Method:**

Pre-spray carpet with an approved Extraction Pre-Spray. Operate the floor wand or self contained extractor by engaging the solution valve, applying clean hot water only. Pull equipment towards the operator for 1m–1.5m before releasing the solution valve.

Cover the same area 2–3 times with the solution valve off to ensure as much moisture as possible is removed from the carpet. Overlap approximately 50mm and proceed on next section of untreated carpet. Place drying fans on wet areas during cleaning and allow the carpet to completely dry before reintroducing foot traffic. Failure to do so will result in rapid resoiling and damage to the carpet fibre.

In cases of highly soiled areas the prespray detergent may require mechanical agitation with a cylindrical brush machine.
e) Chemicals

It is essential to realise that carpets are chemically sensitive fabrics which could be damaged by non-recommended chemicals. Use only approved chemicals for pre-spray or spotting on an "as required" basis. The Interface Carpet Spot Cleaning Kit is recommended for day to day spot cleaning. For spotting and pre-spray the pH should be between 4.5 and 8.5.

Anti-static treatments, optical brighteners, carpet protection chemicals and overly aggressive solvent based cleaners are not recommended for Interface products. Refer to AS/NZS 3733:1995 section 3. If in doubt, please call Interface Customer Support on 1800 008 101.

Technical specifications on equipment and chemicals are available from an Interface Account Manager, or the 24/7 Emergency Cleaning & Maintenance helpline: 1800 785 277.

04 Key Points to Remember

Walk-Off Areas

One of the most effective preventative maintenance steps is a dirt barrier matting area at entryways, exits and any areas adjacent to hard surfaces. Dirt barrier matting areas should be vacuumed daily or as needed.

Vacuuming

Must be done slowly and methodically with a commercial upright, dual motor vacuum with a cylindrical brush or as outlined in section 3.

Pile lifting

Regular pile lifting with a motorised commercial pile lifter keeps the fibre standing upright and separated. In addition to alleviating matting, this procedure will make the vacuuming more effective. Soil is always easier to remove "dry" than wet.

Spotting

Addressing spots immediately can lower the frequency at which overall cleaning is needed.

Low moisture

When general cleaning becomes necessary, use as little water as possible.

Traffic

Carpet should be completely dry before reintroducing traffic. Failure to do so will result in rapid re-soiling and damage to the carpet fibre.
## Appendices

### 01 Spot Cleaning and Solution Guide

For the following Spot Problems, please try solution 1 first, before trying solution 2. If some staining remains, please try solution 3.

* Dry Powder may be used as a quick, dry, low odour alternative.

** For these spot problems, vacuum first and then follow the solutions suggested.

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Instructions for Whiteley spot cleaners:

- Clean up all spills promptly before a spill becomes a permanent stain.
- Remove excess soil or liquid from the carpet. For soil, gently scrape away surface spill with a spatula or knife, and for liquid spills dab area with an absorbent colourfast cloth.
- Where possible try to identify the type of stain; look, feel and smell.
- Always pre-test the spotter in a small inconspicuous area before using. This is to determine if the product is going to have any adverse effects on the surface.
- Apply spotter with a clean white cloth and gently dab the stain working from the outside towards the centre.
- For deep stains apply spotter directly to the carpet. DO NOT over-wet the carpet.
- Rinse the area with water after the stain has been removed.
- Repeat steps for stubborn stains.
- Restore the carpet pile to its original shape by combing the carpet.

Mr No Marks Carpet Master

1. Remove loose dirt or lift off as much of the spilt material as possible. If a wet spill, blot the affected area with a clean colourfast cloth or absorbent towel. Blot from the outer edge of the stain towards the centre. Do not scrub.
2. Spray affected area with a light foam. Wait a few moments and then gently rub with a clean, colourfast damp cloth. Rinse cloth and repeat until mark is removed from the carpet. (Do not overwet the carpet.)
3. Rinse well with clean water to remove detergent residue and allow to dry.

Fabrisolv

1. Apply undiluted directly to the stain (use sparingly and avoid product penetrating to carpet tile backing.)
2. Using a small soft brush or cloth lightly scrub the spot starting from the outside and working towards the centre.
3. Absorb as much Fabrisolv as possible from the surface using an absorbent cloth.
4. Rinse well with clean water to remove detergent residue and allow to dry.
Fabrisan

1. Remove as much excess soil as possible.
2. Apply undiluted FABRISAN directly to the soiled area using a trigger spray.
3. Gently work FABRISAN into the carpet pile.
4. Remove excess with blotting cloth.
5. Rinse well with clean water to remove detergent residue and allow to dry.

Note:
For hot water extraction prespray use FABRIPOWER PLUS. This should be applied to the carpet with a pressure spray unit then rinsed from the carpet with a hot water extraction machine.

The hot water extraction machine should use clean hot water of room temperature or no more than 45°C and the tiles should be left with no more than 30 grams of residual moisture after cleaning.

For best results, use promptly after spot occurs. If unsuccessful, refer to relevant carpet care and cleaning guide or call Whiteley free call number 1800 833 566.

Stubborn stains may require the services of a professional carpet cleaner. Please make sure to use protective gear when encountering excess biological contamination and/or accumulation.

Avoid overuse or careless excess spray as irritation may occur.
Refer to Technical Bulletin/Material Safety Data Sheet at www.whiteley.com.au

Interface recommend utilising cleaning technicians accredited with the National Upholstery and Carpet Cleaners Association. For your nearest technician call the Interface 24/7 Hot Line 1800 785 277.
02 Healthcare and Aged Care
Spot Cleaning

Health and Aged Care Facilities can impose additional demands upon cleaning and maintenance of carpets. However high performance Interface carpets combined with an appropriate spot cleaning response can ensure carpet remains attractive and functional.

Urine

For successful cleaning, urine needs to be cleaned up at the first possible moment and not allowed to dry onto the carpet.

New Urine Spill

1. With a clean white towel mop up as much of the spill as possible.
2. Utilise a hot water extraction unit using clean warm water only.
3. Go over the spill by applying water on the backstroke of the wand and vacuum only on the forward stroke.
4. Apply Fabrisan® Carpet Deodorant & Sanitiser to the effected area.
5. When dry thoroughly vacuum the area with a twin motor upright vacuum.

Old Urine Spill

1. Pre vacuum the area.
2. Tend to heavy spots with appropriate spot cleaner. (Refer to Spot Cleaning & Solution guide on page 11.)
3. Apply pre-spray of Fabripower Plus and agitate into the carpet surface.
4. Utilise a hot water extraction unit using clean warm water only.
5. Go over the spill by applying water on the backstroke of the wand and vacuum only on the forward stroke. (For heavy urine staining a truck mounted unit or portable with 100psi pump is recommended.)
6. Apply Fabrisan® Carpet Deodorant & Sanitiser to the effected area.
7. When dry thoroughly vacuum with a twin motor upright vacuum.
8. Heavily soiled areas may require repeat applications.
Yellowing

If the area is not rinsed clean while the spill is new there may be some penetration of urine into the yarn. Once this has occurred, and the spill dries, there may be some residue yellowing of the fibre that cannot be successfully removed.

Odour

Once urine has dried it forms Uric Acid Crystals and other salts which become the major source of urine odour. Moisture is attracted to the crystals and salts which then gives support to bacterial activity. It is the off gassing of bacteria and enzymes that create the odours that are associated with urine spills.

Uric Acid Crystals and Enzymes should be cleaned from the carpet using Fabrisan®.

Blood

1. With a clean white towel mop up as much of the spill as possible.
2. Apply Whiteley Medizyme enzyme spotter to the spill using a clean white cloth.
3. Dab the stain working from the outside to the centre.
4. Rinse the area thoroughly with clean water and a small amount of Mr No Marks.
5. Repeat the procedure if necessary.
6. When complete, rinse the area with clean water.

Vomit and Faeces

1. Using a spatula or flat knife scrape up as much of the spill as possible.
2. Apply Whiteley Medizyme enzyme spotter to the spill using a clean white cloth.
3. Dab the stain working from the outside to the centre.
4. Then apply Mr No Marks with a clean white cloth.
5. Dab the stain working from the outside to the centre.
6. Rinse the area thoroughly with clean water.
Mercurochrome - Iodine

1. With a clean white cloth mop up as much of the spill as possible.
2. Apply Whiteley Beta-Off.
3. Dab the stain with a clean white cloth from the outside to the centre.
4. Rinse the area thoroughly with clean water and a small amount of Mr No Marks.
5. Repeat the procedure if necessary.

Medications

1. Use spotters in the following order until stain is removed –
   a) Mr No Marks
   b) Medizyme
2. When stain is removed rinse the area thoroughly with clean water.

03 Maintenance Equipment Recommendations

Using the right equipment is as important as using the right cleaning solutions and the best techniques. The following guidelines provide the technical specifications for essential carpet maintenance equipment.

Vacuum (for twin motor uprights)

- **Power**: 8 Amp
- **Filtration**: Down to 0.3 microns or lower
- **Vacuum**: 60” water or better @ 90+ cfm
- **Brush**: Toothed belt drive preferred
  - Brush speed 2,500 – 3,500 Rpm
  - Brush diameter 2H” x 3H”
  - Brush height adjustment essential; self-adjusting design preferred
- **Working Width**: 14” – 18”
- **Dust Bag Capacity**: 300 – 400 cubic inches

Note: Top-loading dust bag machines are strongly recommended.

Note: Battery powered vacuum cleaners are not recommended.

Note: For Healthcare situations, use machines with a 65 or lower DBA rating.

Note: Back pack style vacuums are not recommended.
Note: Battery operated equipment is not recommended.

**Pile Lifting Machines**

Power Requirements
- Drive Motor 1/2 Horsepower
- Vacuum Motor 1 1/2 – 1 3/4 Horsepower
- Brush Width Approximately 100mm; Spirals, total width 400mm – Vegetable Fill or Nylon
- Brush Adjustment Self Levelling

**Hot Water Extraction Machines**

Power Requirements 10 – 15 Amps 220 – 240 Volts
- Vacuum Motor 1500 Watt
- Vacuum Type 3 Stage by-pass
- Vacuum Shoe 300mm – 500mm
- Water Lift 2.5m – 3.5m At 100 CFM
- Fluid Delivery 2 Litres/Minute at 50 – 100 PSI
- Solution Tanks 15 Litres Upwards for both solution & Recovery
- Brush Motor 90 Watt 1/8 Horse Power
- Brush Width 250mm – 450mm with 4v-Shaped rows of Nylon Bristles

**Extraction Compound Application Machines**

Power Requirements 2 – 8 Amps 220/240 Volts
- Motor 200 Watt
- 2 Brush System Contra Rotating
- Brush Width 250mm – 500mm
- Brush Speed 400 Rpm

**Crystalline Shampoo Systems Dry Extractor and Crystalline Applicator**

Power 2 – 8 Amps
- Width 12" – 22"
- Brushes (2)10" – 20"
- Brush Speed 400 Rpm
As part of Interface's Mission Zero promise to eliminate any negative impact on the environment by 2020, we always consider the environment impact of every creative, manufacturing and building decision. This sample book is printed on recycled paper and with soy based ink. Twenty-four virgin trees were saved from our use of 1725 kg of recycled paper in the production of 5000 sample books. Energy intensity also decreased and greenhouse gases were reduced. The other reductions came from waste water and solid waste. Through our InterCircle sample reclamation program, we help keep sample materials out of landfill by re-using them until it is time to recycle these sample materials.