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# PET STAINS

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## Pet stains on carpet? Above & Beyond Carpet Care can help out.

Keep in mind that pet stains, red wine, coffee, inks and most colored stains are definitely some of the stains that are really difficult for the homeowner to remove. Most of the time it's best to leave these up to the professional for complete removal. But the homeowner should always be blotting these stains (all spills or pet stains) immediately by stepping on dry terry cloth towels and repeating this over and over until all the moisture is all absorbed into the towel. Blot, blot, blot until dry... Never scrub the carpet. Just step on dry folded terry cloth towels & keep moving the dry towel many times.... Blot repeatedly to remove all moisture from the carpet.

For minor incidental pet stains we will share with you some great tips below on treating these stains and odor before your professional carpet cleaner comes to do complete removal. Read on as we explain how pet stains can effect the carpet and even cause permanent irreversible damage and then weigh the different options of treating these stains yourself or calling in a professional.

Should you call a professional right away?

We would like to share with you some important information on why pet stains can be so harmful to carpet or area rugs, and when you are considering treating these stains, you should realize that your home spotting treatment is often only a temporary "band aid" fix until you schedule a professional to completely remove the stains. We also realize that you may not be able to schedule a professional to treat these stains every time they happen and you may not even need to have a professional stain removal if the stain is very small. As a rule of thumb, if the stain is bigger than a baseball, you will have a very difficult time in removing the spot. You should still treat the stain in the methods I describe below rather than do nothing if you are not going to hire a professional right away.

A baseball size spot on the carpet could be the size of a basketball on the backside of the carpet. It is also important to know this early on because you will want to prevent, if at all possible, these stains from happening. It is much better to do a home treatment to remove some of the contaminants to prevent

**Always call a  
professional to  
complete the stain  
removal before  
permanent damage**

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permanent color loss and discolorations rather than do nothing for weeks or months while the urine sits in the carpet and damages the carpet color. I will tell you that in my 23 years of cleaning carpet professionally, pet stains are the stains that will ruin the carpet or make professional restoration so expensive that replacement is the only logical option.

Why are pet stains so difficult to remove?

One of the reasons that pet stains are one of the most difficult stains to remove is because often the contamination has penetrated to the back of the carpet and pad. Only a professional can completely remove the pet stain contaminants from the back of the carpet and pad. Therefore, because of evaporation while the stains are drying, there will always be some pet urine that wicks up to the surface carpet yarns, thus making it very difficult to remove completely. A professional uses a powerful truckmount vacuum machine and a sub-surface "Water Claw" device to thoroughly rinse the carpet backing and pad for complete urine removal. We have specialized products for this very thing and strong products for removing odor and stains from the carpet. In some cases, it will be necessary for the professional to pull back the carpet, remove & replace the pad and wash both sides of the carpet. This can be costly and unless it is the corner of the room it is sometimes not worth it. So you really want to keep these stains to a minimum.

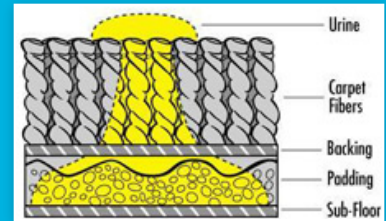
A lot of times pet urine can discolor carpet because of its unique chemistry. Pet urine starts out as a strong acid when it comes out of the animal and after it dries, the pet urine changes chemistry and turns to a strong alkaline salt. That is why there can be a strong ammonia smell that emanates from pet stains.

Pet stains can be very damaging to wool carpet in a very short period of time. The pet urine can also attack the dyes in synthetic carpet as well. If left untreated, or not removed completely by a professional from the back of the carpet, pet urine will remove the color from the yarns, leaving permanent discoloration.

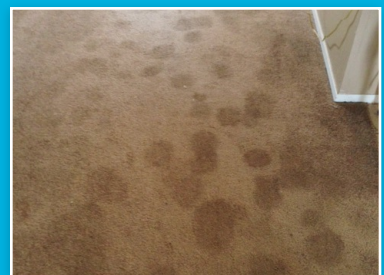
After a period of time the pet stain commonly may appear orange or yellow in color. This is because the blue dyes in the carpet are being attacked by the strong alkaline salts of the pet urine. The pet urine can also be soil-attracting and appear soiled or darker in color after time or left untreated. If too much time has elapsed before a professional carpet cleaner can treat the spots and remove the contaminants, it could be too late. The carpet dye has already been compromised. The previous dark-soiled stain appears lighter in color (or orange) due to color loss and the blue dyes are the ones most commonly attacked. This discoloration can be seen after the dark soiling is removed after steam cleaning.

For example, a brown carpet is made up of three colors; red, yellow and blue. When the blue dye is attacked by pet urine alkaline salts the yellow and red dyes remain and the stain appears orange-ish in color. This discoloration could possibly be

## *Pet urine stains are in the back of carpet & pad*



The pet stains will leave alkaline salts residue that attract soil to the spots. Often these spots will appear soiled in color.



corrected with carpet dying after the urine is completely removed. Ask your professional during the cleaning process if the carpet color damage can be corrected and if the results would be acceptable.

To sum up, the homeowner should blot up and possibly treat the stains with the recommended stain remover and bacterial enzymes prior to calling a professional; don't expect that you will be able to completely remove 100% of the stains. Pet stains can be the most damaging stains on carpet. In addition, some carpets loose color faster than others. For wool carpet, it is very important to treat immediately, and always call a professional.

Next, I will give you some tips on how to treat small pet accidents using products that are safe to use at home. If you are "puppy-training", these tips will be very helpful to treat the incidental pet stains that may occur prior to having your carpet professionally cleaned. And remember, it is important to call a professional to prevent permanent discolorations in the future. The longer it sits in the carpet the more risk there will be. If you have removed the stain and odor, chances are that you have done a good job removing the alkaline salts and contaminants and have stabilized the dyes. You should not have a problem in the future with discolorations.

### Our recommended products

We recommend "Avenge" Spotter for synthetic carpet and "Above & Beyond Carpet Care Responsible Care" spotter for wool. These spotters can be purchased at [www.carpetsupport.com](http://www.carpetsupport.com). We also recommend two bacterial enzymes and diluted household white vinegar for the final step in removal.

Using just about everything under the kitchen sink is NEVER a good idea! Many products will damage carpet and make the stain much more difficult for the professional to remove. And in some cases, cause other permanent discolorations.

So, if you feel motivated to try to treat the stains before we arrive, here are a few tips we recommend for the homeowner. You will find our recommended products for purchase on our website at [www.carpetsupport.com](http://www.carpetsupport.com)



Pet urine can leave a brownish stain



Permanent color loss from alkaline urine salts





## Stain removal tips:

1. When the stain happens blot, blot, blot... with dry terry cloth towels. We recommend stepping on the dry towels and keep moving the towel to dry the stain completely.
2. At this point, the stain should feel dry and most of the pet stain on the fiber should be transferred onto the towel. For synthetic carpet use Avenge, for wool carpet use Responsible Care Spotter. At this point you will be focusing on removing some more of the contaminants from the face yarns and you are not trying to remove the pet urine from the backing or pad (leave that step to the professional carpet cleaner). Now apply our spotters to the face yarns getting the fibers moist. Get a microfiber cloth damp with hot water and ring out most of the water. Blot and wipe the recommended spotters with the microfiber cloth, but never scrub. Follow each application by blotting with a dry towel. (Step on towels folded in half) Keep moving the dry towel to remove as much moisture as possible. You may need to repeat step 2.
3. Let the stain air dry for 24 hours. It's okay to use fans if desired to dry faster but there will most likely still be an odor in the carpet.
4. Now you will use a bacterial enzyme product to saturate the stain. You want the bacterial enzyme to come into contact with all the contaminants in the back of the carpet and pad if it went down that far. We recommend purchasing either Unique Natural Products Pet Odor & Stain Eliminator concentrate (mix 5:1 or 10:1 depending on the severity of the odor), or Natures Miracle. Both can be found online, at most pet stores, or La Jolla Vacuum Center to name a few.
5. After saturating the carpet with enzyme place enough wet towels on the carpet to keep the stain wet for 24 hours. Very important!!! (We suggest that you use an old white towel, as some discoloration will transfer to the towel). The enzyme will only work while wet. After 24 hours remove the towels and let air dry or speed dry with fans if desired. Repeat steps 4 & 5 if there is still an odor but understand that this means there may be too much contamination for a homeowner to tackle.
6. This last step will help to remove the common brownish stain that urine can leave behind and the bacterial enzymes that have dried on the carpet fibers. Use a bowl or bucket and a mixture of 1 part white vinegar & 3 parts water. Dip a micro fiber towel in solution and wring out excess solution. Gently blot or wipe across the fibers in all directions but do not scrub. Wash micro fiber cloth with warm sink water after each application and repeat the process with vinegar solution if necessary. Follow each application by blotting the spot with a dry terry cloth towel, folded in half and step on area to remove moisture.

\*\*\*Important!!! Before you do this last step make sure you have removed all of the odor. If you need to do additional odor removing treatments with bacterial enzyme you don't want to introduce vinegar yet. The natural bacterial enzymes won't work as efficiently with vinegar in the carpet. This last step will help stabilize the carpet dyes and is also safe to do on wool carpet. This will also help in removing some of the brownish stain left behind. Just be careful to blot, wipe slowly and be careful not to "fuzz out" or fray the carpet fiber. Use a micro fiber cloth if possible.

Note\*\*\* Professionals have very strong urine brown stain removers for synthetic carpet but are limited in what we can use on wool.

If there is any odor or stain, please call a professional ASAP to remove the stains completely. Make sure to show the professional carpet cleaner where those pet stains are so we can use a sub-surface "Water Claw" device to thoroughly rinse the carpet backing and pad for complete urine removal. We have specialized products much stronger than bacterial enzymes and thoroughly flush the stains out of the carpet for complete odor and stain removal.

If you aren't sure exactly where the stains are located, then we can come out after dark, with a black light, and mark all the spots and stains for you. Please call our office 8am-5pm M-F for more information. **Above & Beyond Carpet Care - 619-462-1990** [www.carpetsupport.com](http://www.carpetsupport.com)