

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Get The Dirt On Professional Carpet Cleaning ...And Get The Dirt Off Your Carpet

(NAPSA)—The kids, the spills and the pets—between daily foot traffic and unavoidable accidents, carpet soiling is inevitable. Dry soil, which abrades carpet fiber, can usually be removed with regular vacuuming. Oily soil, which gives the carpet a dull appearance, requires a professional cleaning to eliminate.

A professional cleaning can revive your carpet and help restore its fresh appearance, but a quality job is dependent on avoiding inexperienced cleaners and unscrupulous firms.

The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) offers the following tips for selecting a qualified cleaning professional:

Be cautious with advertising claims.

It isn't economical for a trained, competent professional to drive a serviceable vehicle equipped with quality equipment to your house for a minimum of two rooms for \$6.95. If an advertisement sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Request a cost estimate.

Ask for a quote in writing before any work begins. Be especially wary of "special treatments" at much higher prices. "Chemical pre-conditioners" should be part of the normal cleaning process and pricing, not extra.

Determine if there is an extra charge for moving furniture, deodorization and normal "pre-spotting" before the service begins. Soil or stain protection is not normally included in the cleaning cost.

Expect compliance with industry standards.

Ask if the cleaning method con-



forms to the IICRC Standard for Carpet Cleaning (S001). "Hot water extraction" includes thorough pre-vacuuming, pre-conditioning and sufficient dwell time for maximum soil suspension, careful rinsing and extraction of suspended soils, grooming of the carpet pile, and finally, taking steps to ensure that the carpet is dry within 6-8 hours. Drying should never exceed 24 hours.

Check for certification.

To help maintain your carpet appearance and ensure complete satisfaction with the services performed, the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) recommends hiring a certified professional carpet cleaning firm and technician.

Visit the IICRC Web site at www.iicrc.org or call the IICRC referral line at 800-835-4624 to locate an IICRC-certified firm or technician near you. Upon request, these firms or technicians should be able to provide a list of satisfied clients that use their services.

To learn more about the IICRC or how to care for your carpet, you can write to 2715 East Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661.