

# CLEAN TALK

Our Home and Office Maintenance Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2008



Greetings and welcome to the Summer edition of Clean Talk.

Summer has always been our favorite time of the year. Long warm days, care-free attitudes, many family gatherings, and of course, Summer vacation for the kids. This is also always a very busy time for us in the cleaning business. It's rejuvenating, when we can get away for a couple of days each month to spend time with family and friends. We sure hope you enjoy your Summer as much as we do!

We really appreciate your continued use of our services. Without you, our loyal customers, we wouldn't be here. We look forward to helping you with all of your future cleaning needs and hope to see you soon!

Best Regards,

*Michael & Alex Leitten*

Owners, Professional Carpet Systems

P.S. Don't need any cleaning done just yet? Please pass the coupons on page 4 along to a friend or

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## What Color was that Chair?

### Does this sound familiar?

You're sitting in your favorite chair, watching a good movie. You reach up to wipe away a tear or two, and suddenly you realize... it's not the movie that's bringing tears to my eyes, it's this stinky old chair! Time to call us to schedule upholstery cleaning!

### Deep Cleaning, Fast Drying

We offer a thorough cleaning process that will have your upholstery sparkling clean, dry and ready to use again in a couple of hours.

Our highly trained technicians will test your upholstery fabric and choose the cleaning system that is best for each individual piece. Whether it's the finest natural fibers requiring solvent cleaning, or the hardest of synthetic fabrics, rest assured, we'll pick the right tool for the job.

### The Benefits of Clean Furniture

Besides the obvious benefit of appearance, by cleaning your upholstered furniture,

you are extending it's life. Embedded soil can be abrasive, acting like tiny razor-blades slicing and dicing your fabrics, causing them to wear prematurely. By having us clean your upholstery, you are not only ridding the fabric of soil, you help remove unhealthy allergens such as dust mites, animal and human hair and dander, plus mold and mildew spores. That helps your family breathe easier too!



### Impressive Results

Don't wait another day. Have your furniture deep cleaned by us and enjoy a fresher, cleaner home that will impress the most discriminating visitor. We clean all fabrics.

### Fabric Protection also Available

Fortify your furniture's ability to stand up to life's unexpected messes by protecting it with upholstery protector. A small investment in this invisible shield will add great value in the long run. Ask your technician for more information. You'll be glad you did!



**(615) 883-9318**

*"Delivering Extraordinary Results"*

**100% Guarantee!**

### Menu of Services:

#### In Home or Office:

- Carpet Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning (Leather Too!)
- Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Hardwood Floor Cleaning
- Tile & Grout Cleaning
- Carpet Repairs & Stretching

## Clean Laughs...

### Young Words of Wisdom...

"Never trust a dog to watch your food."  
Patrick, age 10

"When your dad is mad and asks you, 'Do I look stupid?' don't answer."  
Hannah, 9

"Never tell your mom her diet's not working."  
Michael, 14

"Stay away from prunes."  
Randy, 9

"Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick."  
Lauren, 9

"Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat."  
Joel, 10

### Families are like fudge . . . mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

The local high school has a policy that the parents must call the school if the student is to be absent for the day. Kelly, deciding to skip and go to the mall with her friends, waited until her parents had left for work and called the school herself:

Kelly: "Hi, I'm calling to report that Kelly is unable to make it to school today because she is ill."

Secretary at high school: "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. I'll note her absence. Who is this calling?"

Kelly: "This is my mother."

### The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

The shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand-new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read **BEST DEALS**.

He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading **LOWEST PRICES**.

The shopkeeper was panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop. It read: **MAIN ENTRANCE**.

### Stock Market Report...

Helium was up, feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Knives were up sharply. Pencils lost a few points. Diapers remained unchanged. The market for raisins dried up. Coca Cola fizzled and Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.

*Freddie was eighteen years old, friendly, and eager to do things right. Unfortunately, he wasn't especially bright. He had just started his first job, as a delivery boy and general go-fer at a furniture warehouse. His first task was to go out for coffee.*

*He walked into a nearby coffee shop carrying a large thermos. When the counter- man finally noticed him, he held up the thermos.*

*"Is this big enough to hold six cups of coffee?" he asked.*

*The counterman looked at the thermos, hesitated for a few seconds, then finally said, "Yeah. It looks like about six cups to me."*

*"Good," Freddie said. "Give me two with cream, two black, and two decaf."*



## Ask Mr. Know-it-all

**Dear Mr. Know-it-all:** We recently replaced our disgusting, worn out, old carpeting with brand new carpet. There were some good-sized pieces left over, that I had my husband cut up into different sizes to use as area rugs to protect some of the highest traffic areas.

My mother in-law says we shouldn't do that. Is she full of hot air?

signed, Anita

**Dear Anita:** I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but your mother in-law is right. Putting area rugs down in the highest traffic areas is a great way to protect your new carpeting from soiling and wear, but carpet scraps should not be laid down directly over your carpet.

Carpeting has a very rough backing. By simply walking over the carpet scraps, they will move. The movement of the rough backing over your pristine new carpet will cause it to wear much faster than if you had no rugs in place at all.

But, alas, there is a solution. You can have your cake and eat it too.

Most carpet stores or home improvement centers sell a special carpet pad that works great for applications like yours. The padding comes in a roll and is very thin - about the thickness of a canvas paint tarp. You simply cut it to fit with scissors and put it in place.

Make sure that the pad that you buy has a special "tacky" coating on both sides to help adhere to your installed carpet and remnants.

**Dear Mr. Know-it-all:** Help! My kids got gum on the carpet, how do I remove it?!

signed, Soccer Mom

**Dear Soccer Mom:** Spray a minute amount of WD-40 on the gum and scrape it with a spoon. It may take a couple of attempts. Don't use too much!

Once done, use a water-based carpet spot remover to remove the WD-40 residue. Place paper towels over the spot, weight it down and leave overnight.

## Clearing up the Mystery of Furniture Tags



You've seen the tags hidden mysteriously under the cushions of your couch or favorite chair: **WARNING! DO NOT REMOVE UNDER PENALTY OF LAW.**

I remember as a child, being terrified when I saw the tags, yet one day, I gathered up just enough courage to remove the label from a footstool, before I ran to my bedroom - certain that the police would be coming to get me at any moment.

As an adult, I'm now fairly confident that I am in no danger of incarceration by removing one of the tags. But, I now leave them in place, because they sometimes contain valuable information about the furniture's fabric content, which helps to determine what cleaning process to use.



The federal government requires these tags, or "Care Labels," to indicate whether the manufacturer approves or recommends dry solvent cleaning (represented by an "S" on the cleaning code); if they approve/recommend wet cleaning ("W" on the cleaning code); or if they approve/recommend that only dry vacuuming be used ("X" on the cleaning code). To further add to the confusion, these tags could also be the "content" tags, stating what's *in* the upholstered piece of furniture.

Even though Federal law mandates "Care Labels," they may not always provide valid information. The tags are attached

during the finishing process of the furniture and may not always end up where they belong. They also often times tell only what's in the furniture, not what the outside covering - the part that you clean - is made of.

Many situations of contradictory labeling have also been reported. In several cases, two pieces of a matching living/family room set have had different "Care Labels," although the fabric and construction on both pieces were identical. Just a silly mix-up at the factory? This in itself should be enough to motivate you to seek professional help, instead of attempting to clean the furniture yourself.

So, what does each tag represent, which do you believe, and which do you follow?

The solvent cleaning system, indicated by an "S" on the label, has often proven to be a less than satisfactory process for heavily soiled fabrics. It also entails the use of, and many times the aerosolization, of petroleum solvents such as Odorless Mineral Spirits, which in itself may create a health hazard for occupants of the area where the cleaning is being performed.

Keep in mind that suitable respirators and goggles and gloves must be used when performing this type of cleaning, and ventilation of the work is imperative. Many cities have fire regulations that now make it illegal to use solvents for on-site upholstery cleaning. All this effort for a process that isn't very effective. Fortunately, with today's advanced cleaning methods, We can now safely wet clean most "S" coded fabrics.

Wet cleaning systems indicated by a "W," have proven more effective and less hazardous for most upholstery cleaning situations. Fabrics must be pre-tested carefully to determine fiber content and danger of dye bleeding occurring. Natural fibers may shrink or brown, so every precaution must be taken. Fans, and/or our friend Mr. Sun, will normally help with the drying and prevent many problems.

Wet cleaning is simply more effective than dry "S" cleaning and provides superior results. I always try to get complete drying of upholstered furniture before I leave the job site. Any "surprises" such as bleeding, browning, shrinkage etc., occur during the drying process.

Always remember that the "X" on a label means just brush and or vacuum pieces. No cleaning solution of any kind must touch the fabric. Not a suitable fabric for homes with kids!

### *Actual Excerpts From Letters To Landlords...*

*"The toilet is blocked and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared."*

*"The toilet seat is cracked. Where do I stand?"*

*"I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall."*

*"Our lavatory seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces."*

*"Will you please send someone to mend our cracked sidewalk. Yesterday my wife tripped on it and is now pregnant."*

*"Our kitchen floor is very damp, we have two children and would like a third, so will you please send someone to do something about it."*

*"Could you please send someone to fix our bath tap. My wife got her toe stuck in it and it is very uncomfortable for us."*

**Pet Accident? Follow these spotting directions:**

- Blot up as much of the urine as possible. Do not scrub. When you think you have as much of it up as possible, blot the area again using a towel soaked in warm water. Be careful not to get the area too wet—you may force the urine deeper. Blot the area again with a dry towel.
- Next, apply a low-residue carpet spot remover, let sit for 60 seconds and again blot the spot.
- Finally, fold a dry towel to several layers, place over the spot and apply at least 10 pounds of weight. Let it sit overnight. When you remove the towel, fluff the carpet up and allow to dry. If the spot returns after a few days, repeat the last two steps.

After the carpet dries, stick your nose down to the carpet and give it a good whiff. Any odor? If so, please be very careful what you use. Most store-bought deodorizers only work in mild odor situations. Don't over-use them, you may do more harm than good.



*Super Summer Specials!*

**Tile and Grout Cleaning**

**\$35 off!**

150 sq. ft minimum

Minimum Service Charge Applies

**Upholstery Cleaning**

**\$35 off!**

Combined upholstery cleaning  
(2 or more pieces)

Restrictions Apply. Call for Details

**PROFESSIONAL  
CARPET  
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**(615) 883-9318**



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