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IAQ: Improve Indoor Air Quality with this Inexpensive Tip from Steamatic

Improving the indoor air quality in your home or office doesn't have to be expensive if you maintain your carpet. What does carpeting have to do with air quality? A carpet is the biggest filter in your place. It can remove more particulates from the air than the filter in a heating and air conditioning system.

Critically important to health are breathable particulates. Of all the components in smog, particles small enough to lodge in the lungs (2 microns and smaller) are most damaging especially to sensitive individuals according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

According to EPA research, carpeting is a giant sink that collects debris from the air due to gravitational forces and static electricity that binds particles to synthetic particles.

To keep the biggest filter in your home or business working well, it must be maintained. That calls for vacuuming twice a week with a vacuum equipped a beater bar and with a high-efficiency filter. A HEPA filter works best at preventing dust collected by the vacuum from getting into the air.

Carpets also should be cleaned at least once annually, if not more often, using the hot water extraction method. It's often called "steam" cleaning.

Of all the hot water extraction systems in the market, Steamatic has the most efficient cleaning process. Steamatic uses higher temperatures and less pressure to clean carpets. That reduces the need for chemicals, kills up 95 percent of the bacteria and leaves the carpet dryer. Steamatic of Sacramento's franchisor, Steamatic Inc. of Fort Worth, has held nine patents on this system since 1968.

The baseline temperature for the most effective cleaning is 119 degrees. That's why most hot water heaters are set at 120 degrees. Research has shown that increasing the temperature 19 degrees increases the efficiency of the cleaning process 100 percent. The temperature of the water hitting the carpet with the Steamatic process is between 150 and 160 degrees. Steamatic can maintain temperatures that high because of the unique re-circulating system built into the truck-mount and portable machines.

In other truck mount and portable systems, the water can start just out just as hot. However, as the water runs through the lines it loses heat, the further the distance, the less heat. Instead, other systems rely on water pressure to blast the dirt out of the carpet. The Steamatic system uses 150 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure where other systems, both portable and truck-mounted, operate 400 to 600 psi to produce the same results. The more pressure, the more likely it is that the carpet will be over wet.

The high-temperature of the Steamatic hot-water extraction process causes a momentary break in the static charge and releases dirt and microscopic debris that other systems leave behind. Research at Texas Christian University also revealed that the Steamatic hot water extraction process kills 95 percent of the bacteria on the carpet and upholstery.

Now you can understand why Steamatic of Sacramento promotes carpet cleaning as one of the company's Healthy Home Services.®

Note: The condition of older carpet may affect our ability to produce the above results in a single cleaning. Repetitive cleaning of the carpet may be required. In some instances, S.O.S. may recommend replacement rather than cleaning.