



# CARPET

## Drying Times

### INTRODUCTION

Many carpet cleaning problems are associated with prolonged drying times. Conversely shorter drying times means browning, shrinking, wicking and odors are less likely to occur.

For some commercial cleaning, for example an airport or other facility that operates 24 hours a day, short drying times are a necessity.

Quick drying times are also important to the residential client who wants her carpet back in service and her household disrupted for the shortest possible time.

Shorter drying times not only help you avoid potential problems but can be a great marketing tools to consumers who value this advantage.

This Technical Guide highlights a number of methods you can consider to shorten the drying times on your carpet cleaning jobs. Not all procedures apply to every situation.

### PROCEDURES

- **STEP 1**  
Keep vacuum hose lengths to a minimum. Each foot of vacuum hose reduces your extraction efficiency. Excess vacuum hose should be laid out in gentle "S" curves rather than lying haphazardly.
- **STEP 2**  
Make additional vacuum only drying passes.
- **STEP 3**  
Vacuum hose and cuffs should be tightly connected and in good condition, no splits or leaks.
- **STEP 4**  
Filters must be cleaned regularly. A Hydro-Filter keeps much debris from reaching the filters in your waste tank. This makes it much easier to keep filters clean. There is some trade-off here because adding a filter will slightly reduce vacuum but not nearly as much as a dirty waste tank filter.

- **STEP 5**  
Waste tank seals, gaskets and lid must fit tightly. Be sure drain valve closes completely.
- **STEP 6**  
Make use of ceiling fans, exhaust fans and air conditioning along with professional air movers to increase air circulation and vent moist air from the building.
- **STEP 7**  
Follow HWE (hot water extraction) cleaning by using an absorbent cotton or micro-fiber bonnet. Bonnet should be lightly damp.
- **STEP 8**  
Consider cleaning with a low moisture system such as Encapuclean or Encapuclean with Maxim. Encapsulation cleaning is discussed in another Bridgepoint Technical Resource Guide.
- **STEP 9**  
Investigate more powerful extraction machines with greater vacuum capabilities.

**Note:** In some environments opening windows or doors to replace moist air with dryer outside air may be helpful. A thermo-hygrometer will be useful to make sure that the air you are bringing in is actually drier than the air you are exhausting.

### CHEMICALS NEEDED



**Encapuclean and Encapuclean w/Maxim**  
**Description:** Low moisture encapsulation cleaner  
**Highlights:** High production rates plus it eliminates or reduces wicking problems.

### ACCESSORIES NEEDED



**Air King Air Mover**  
**Description:** Lightweight air mover  
**Highlights:** Adjusts to several positions to speed drying of protectants.



**Air Mover**  
**Description:** High volume air mover  
**Purpose:** Dries carpet and upholstery quickly. Reduce likelihood of problems resulting from slow drying



**Microfiber or cotton bonnet**  
**Description:** Pad for cleaning and absorbing moisture  
**Purpose:** Multipurpose. Can be used on carpet or hard surfaces for mild abrasion and superior absorbency.

### EQUIPMENT NEEDED



**Truckmount**  
**Description:** Hot water extraction machine  
**Purpose:** Provides hot water, pressure and vacuum for carpet cleaning.



**Olympus Portable**  
**Description:** Portable extractor  
**Purpose:** Extracts water, soil and cleaning agents from carpet or upholstery.



**Rotary Machine w/ drive block**  
**Purpose:** Dries carpet faster to avoid soil wicking. Helps promote even and deep coverage of Fab-Set / Citric acid solution. For bonnet cleaning, encapsulation and tile floor cleaning.

## **PROCEDURES**

- Keep vacuum hose lengths to a minimum.
- Make extra dry passes.
- Maintenance of hoses, filters, seals and gaskets.
- Use air movers and other methods for circulation and to exhaust humid air.
- Use encapsulation cleaning or other low moisture methods.
- Invest in extraction equipment with more powerful vacuum.



## **PRODUCTS NEEDED**

- Professional air movers
- Rotary cleaning machine
- Cotton or Micro-Fiber bonnets
- Encapuclean or Encapuclean w/ Maxim
- Truckmount
- Olympus Portable Extractor

# **Other Resources**

### **Other Resources**

**Bridgepoint Fast Track Manual**

**Bridgepoint Carpet Cleaning Manual**

**IICRC Carpet Cleaning & Commercial Carpet**

**Maintenance Technician classes**

**Bridgepoint Catalog**

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