

Carpet Cleaning Specification

Covered Products:

Carpet cleaning detergents, including concentrated pre-spray spot removers and carpet shampoos.

Definitions:

Carpet Cleaning Detergent: Cleaning agent that increases the ability of water to penetrate carpet and break down greases and dirt. Detergents act like soap but, unlike soaps, they are derived from organic acids rather than fatty acids. Their molecules surround particles of grease and dirt, allowing them to be carried away.

Closed Loop Dilution-Control System: A safe and accurate dilution control by eliminating exposure to cleaning concentrates and accidental spillage of chemical concentrates, which delivers consistent, accurate, proper dilution dispensing.

Fragrance: a substance or combination of chemicals that imparts an odor or scent or is designed to counteract an odor. Fragrance ingredients may be synthetic, derived from petroleum or natural raw materials. For further information, visit [Safer Choice Fact Sheet - Fragrance-Free \(epa.gov\)](#)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): A class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom. For the EPA PFAS chemical list, visit [PFAS Chemical Lists and Tiered Testing Methods Descriptions | US EPA](#).

Standard Setting and Certification Programs:

Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI): certifies vacuum cleaners under its Seal of Approval/Green Label (SOA/GL) Program. To be approved, vacuum cleaners must be tested by an independent laboratory to perform well at removing soil without releasing dust into the air or altering the texture of the carpet. For more information, visit the [Carpet and Rug Institute \(CRI\) website](#).

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 35: restricts the amount of 1,4 dioxane in household cleaning products. See Article 35 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law for 1,4-dioxane concentration limits. Per that law, "Household cleansing product" means any product, including but not limited to soaps and detergents, containing a surfactant as a wetting or dirt emulsifying agent and used primarily for domestic or commercial cleaning purposes. For more information, visit the [Environmental Conservation Law Article 35 website](#).

Green Seal: Has developed environmental standards and certifies products for more than 40 major product categories. It has a number of standards for general purpose cleaning products. For more information, visit the [Green Seal website](#).

US EPA Safer Choice: Is a program which includes practices that reduce, eliminate, or prevent pollution at its source, such as using safer ingredients in products. Products may be viewed at <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>. This excludes all products where the parent company is overdue for their yearly partnership review and is identified with a double dagger (‡) next to the company name in the safer choice product list. For more information, visit the [US EPA Safer Choice](#) website.

UL EcoLogo: Is an independent, third-party standard-setting and certification program that follows the Guiding Principles and Procedures for Type 1 Environmental Labeling adopted by the international Organization for Standardization (ISO 14024). Since its establishment in 1988, EcoLogo has been recognized or references in hundreds of specifications and standards. It has a number of standards for general purpose cleaners. It has standards for general purpose cleaners. It has standards for cleaning products, sanitary paper, trash bags, adhesives, and more. For more information visit the [UL EcoLogo](#) website.

Specification:

1. Best Practices to Reduce Need for Carpet Cleaners

Affected entities are encouraged to use the following best practices to reduce the need for chemical use over the life of the carpet; for health and safety; and for extending the life of equipment:

- Use entrance floor matting systems to reduce the amount of dirt that enters the building.
- Vacuum carpets and rugs regularly with HEPA filter vacuums. Visit for the [Vacuum Cleaner Specification](#) for more details.
- For spot cleaning, use the least amount of moisture and cleaning product necessary. Delaying cleaning may cause the spill to become permanent.
- Always dry vacuum before using extraction carpet cleaning methods.
- Pay attention to when the tank is full to avoid damaging the machine.
- Perform a deep, wet cleaning of the carpet every 12-18 months.
- Use extraction carpet cleaning equipment that removes enough moisture to dry carpets within 24 hours to help prevent the growth of mold in carpets.
- Develop a Carpet Cleaning and Maintenance Program based on [CRI guidelines](#) for commercial applications.

2. Purchasing Specifications for Carpet Cleaning Products

All affected entities shall purchase carpet cleaners that adhere to the following:

- Compliant with Article 35 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law: ([1,4 Dioxane Limits for Household Cleansing, Personal Care, and Cosmetics Product, NYSDEC](#))
- Do not contain Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS). The undiluted product shall not contain intentionally added ingredients or components that are PFAS.
- Meets one or more of the following third-party certifications:

- [Green Seal](#)
- [UL EcoLogo](#)
- [US EPA Safer Choice](#)
- or**
- Certified approved for use by OGS and listed here on the [OGS Green Cleaning Product List](#)

All affected Entities are encouraged to purchase cleaning products that are fragrance-free.

3. Purchasing Concentrated Products and Dilution Systems

Affected entities are encouraged to procure dilution equipment for all concentrated cleaning products, including wall and mobile units. All concentrated cleaners must be a Closed Loop Dilution-Control System that meets the following requirements:

- No open containers are allowed. The container must have "spill-resistant packaging" that requires coupling to a specially designed device to dispense the product.
- The container may not be able to be "practically accessed" during routine use. The packaging must not allow for access or exposure to the concentrated product after opening a cap or lid, or before or while connecting to the dispensing system.
- The container must contain a backflow prevention system that meets the current American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) 1055 standard.

4. Packaging:

Packaging shall comply with [Environmental Conservation Law section 37-0205](#). Packaging shall not contain inks, dyes, pigments, adhesives, stabilizers, or any other additives to which any lead, cadmium, mercury, or hexavalent chromium is intentionally added or contain incidental concentrations of lead, cadmium, mercury or hexavalent chromium which together are greater than 100 parts per million by weight (0.01%).

New York State encourages affected entities to adopt the following in order of preference when purchasing items that come in packaging:

- Items that do not need packaging, or the packaging is part of the product.
- Items that come in reusable packaging.
- Items that come in bulk packaging.
- Items that come in innovative packaging that reduces the amount of packaging.
- Items that come in packaging that remains the property of the supplier and does not become the property of the end user under any circumstance or condition. The vendor shall certify that the packaging material will be reused, recycled, or composted, and managed in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.
- Items that come in packaging that maximizes recycled or biodegradable (compostable) content and/or meets or exceeds the minimum post-consumer content level for packaging in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines. Biodegradable products should only be used in areas where a composting facility exists that accept the material.

- Items that come in Packaging that is recyclable or biodegradable (compostable). Biodegradable products should only be used in areas where a composting facility exists and will accept the material.

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