



**FLOORIGAMI™**

# Care & Cleaning

SHAW FLOORS FLOORIGAMI™ MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

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## The Basics

Messes happen. Luckily, Floorigami makes care and cleaning so easy it barely requires a guide. Just in case you need a few reminders, we've outlined everything you need to know in this handy guide.

## Floorigami Lift, Clean and Replace™ for Spots and Spills

**Kids. Pets. General life messes. Floorigami can handle it.**

Prompt attention to spots and spills is essential. Some spilled materials will stain or discolor carpet if not removed promptly. Other spills can leave a sticky residue that may result in increased soiling if not removed.

Follow these simple steps:

### 1. SCRAPE

Remove as much of food spills as possible by scraping gently with a spoon or dull knife.

### 2. ABSORB

Absorb wet spills as quickly as possible by blotting repeatedly with white paper towels or cloth towels.

### 3. BLOT

Always blot; never rub or scrub abrasively, as a fuzzy area may result. When blotting, work from the outer edge in toward the center of the spot to avoid spreading the spill.

### 4. PEEL

Once the stain has been blotted, peel the tile off of the floor.

### 5. RINSE

Rinse the tile under the water faucet, but do not allow the water to soak the back of the carpet tile. We like to call this giving your Floorigami DIY carpet a shower, not a bath.

### 6. DRY

After rinsing the stain, be sure to blot the tile with a towel or extract the water from the surface with a shop vac. Allow the carpet tile to dry by placing it on a grate so air can reach the face and back of the carpet tile.

### 7. REPLACE

Ensure the tile has fully dried before you place it back in place. We recommend not walking on wet or damp carpet tiles.

In the event a stain cannot be removed, simply replace the tile altogether with a new tile, or remove the stained tile and swap it with a less noticeable tile on the edge of the wall. Ensure the arrows on the back of each tile are pointed in the same direction. It may be necessary to slightly lift surrounding tiles to stick it back in place correctly.

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## Vacuum Friendly

The best way to reduce dirt accumulation and prolong the life of your carpet is to vacuum, vacuum, vacuum! Most dirt, even dust, is in the form of hard particles. When left in the carpet, these gritty, sharp particles abrade the pile as effectively as sandpaper.

### HOW FREQUENTLY SHOULD YOU VACUUM?

That depends on the amount of foot traffic and household soil to which your carpet is exposed to. More use means more frequent vacuuming. Weekly vacuuming is a great place to start! Shaw floors recommends a vacuum cleaner with a vertical rotating brush or “brush/beater bar” to agitate the pile and mechanically loosen soil particles. The exception to this is for the Plume Perfect shag style product with longer yarns which might tend to wrap around a rotating brush. For these styles we recommend a suction-only vacuum.

Be aware that some vacuums have overly aggressive action which may damage the surface of your carpet.

Make sure your vacuum is certified through the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Seal of Approval/Green Label Vacuum Cleaner Program. Visit [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org) for details and listings. Always make sure there is a small gap between the bottom of the vacuum and the flooring being cleaned. This gap allows airflow and removes dry soil suspended by the brush more efficiently. Improper height setting of the vacuum may cause tiles to lift and damage face fibers.

## Spot Removal

Shaw's R2X<sup>®</sup> Stain & Soil Remover is recommended for all types of spot cleaning and is available through [www.shawfloors.com](http://www.shawfloors.com). It is approved under the Carpet and Rug Institute's (CRI) Seal of Approval certification. Additional cleaning products in the CRI certification program are listed at [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org). Do not use any household cleaners other than those listed in this program, since many household products contain chemicals that may permanently damage your carpet. If one of the recommended products is not readily available you may use the guidelines below:

## Cleaning Solutions

### DETERGENT:

Mix ¼ teaspoon clear hand dish-washing detergent with 1 cup warm, not hot, water. Use a clear, non-bleach liquid dishwashing detergent such as Dawn, Joy or clear Ivory. Professional installers and maintenance teams should use Shaw R2X<sup>®</sup> or CRI SOA approved cleaning solutions and apply according to label directions.

### HYDROGEN PEROXIDE/AMMONIA:

Mix ½ cup hydrogen peroxide (3% solution available in drug stores) with one teaspoon undiluted, unscented, clear (non-sudsy) household ammonia. Use within two hours of mixing.

### VINEGAR:

1 part white vinegar to 1 part water

### AMMONIA:

One tablespoon to one cup water.

### SOLVENT:

Liquid, non-oily, non-caustic type sold for spot removal from garments. Use products for grease, oil, and tar removal such as Carbona and Afta. Do not apply directly to carpet to prevent carpet damage. (See **Procedure A**).

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## Common Household Stains

The following chart lists the most common household stains and the procedure used to remove them. If using more than one procedure, allow to dry in-between:

	STAIN PROCEDURE		STAIN PROCEDURE		STAIN PROCEDURE
<b>Beer</b>	B Ink-India	<b>Furniture Polish</b>	A	<b>Mustard</b>	M
<b>Berries</b>	M	<b>Grease-Food</b>	A, B	<b>Nail Polish</b>	L
<b>Blood</b>	M	<b>Grease-Auto</b>	A	<b>Paint-Latex</b>	B
<b>Butter</b>	A	<b>Glue-White</b>	B	<b>Paint-Oil</b>	A
<b>Candle Wax</b>	O, A	<b>Glue-Hobby</b>	A, L	<b>Pet Food</b>	M
<b>Candy (sugar)</b>	B	<b>Ice Cream</b>	B	<b>Shoe Polish</b>	A, M
<b>Catsup</b>	M	<b>Ink-Ball Point Pen</b>	A	<b>Soft Drinks</b>	M
<b>Chewing Gum</b>	G, A	<b>Marking Pen</b>	A, M	<b>Tar</b>	A
<b>Chocolate</b>	B	<b>Kool-Aid</b>	M	<b>Tea</b>	M
<b>Chalk</b>	P	<b>Lemonade</b>	M	<b>Urine</b>	D, M
<b>Coffee</b>	M	<b>Makeup</b>	A, B	<b>Vomit</b>	B, M
<b>Cooking Oil</b>	A, B	<b>Mayonnaise</b>	B	<b>Wine</b>	B, M
<b>Crayon</b>	A, B	<b>Mercurochrome</b>	M	<b>Unknown</b>	A, B
<b>Dirt or Clay</b>	P, B	<b>Merthiolate</b>	M		
<b>Dyes (Blue, Black, etc.)</b>	M	<b>Milk</b>	B		
<b>Excrement</b>	B	<b>Mixed Drinks (liquors)</b>	M		
<b>Fruit Juice/Drinks</b>	M	<b>Mud (dried)</b>	P, B		

Please reference your specific warranty for covered stains. The stain removal procedures recommended on the following page are provided to assist in maintaining your Floorigami DIY carpet and reflect the best information available. Remember, no carpet is stain proof.

**WARNING:** Certain products found in most homes can cause irreparable damage to your carpet. Bleaches, tile cleaners, mildew removers, oven cleaners, drain openers, pesticides, and some plant foods can have strong chemicals which discolor or dissolve carpet fibers. Acne medications containing benzoyl peroxide, a very powerful bleach, are capable of permanently damaging your carpet and most other fabrics as well.

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## Stain Removal Procedures:

**REMINDER:** With any stain, scrape or blot up excess spill prior to procedure. Always follow up with water to remove detergent residue that may become sticky and cause rapid resoiling.

### PROCEDURE A

Apply solvent to dry towel/cloth. Blot, don't rub. Repeat application if necessary. Follow with **Procedure B**.

### PROCEDURE B

Apply detergent solution (see "Cleaning Solutions") using a damp towel. Blot, don't rub. Use a fresh, damp cloth towel to remove all detergent residue. Blot; finish with pad of paper towels weighted with a heavy object such as a jug of water or glass baking dish. If any stain remains, repeat.

### PROCEDURE D

Apply detergent solution (see "Cleaning Solutions") using a damp towel. Blot, don't rub. Use a fresh, damp cloth towel to remove all detergent residue. If spot remains, apply ammonia/water solution (see "Cleaning Solutions") using a damp towel. Blot, don't rub. Apply white vinegar (undiluted), only after stain is removed. Apply water rinse with a damp towel. Blot; finish with weighted pad of towels.

### PROCEDURE G

Freeze with ice cubes. Shatter with blunt object such as a butter knife or back of spoon. Remove chips before they melt. If color remains, follow with solvent (**Procedure A**).

### PROCEDURE L

Apply solvent remover (non-oily acetone type) to a white, cotton towel and apply to spill. Do not saturate carpet. Pick up softened material using a clean, white paper towel, push toward center of the spot (to avoid spreading material). Repeat above to soften and carefully remove a layer of the material each time. Haste may spread the stain and/or damage the carpet. Follow with **Procedure B**. If spot remains, apply ammonia solution using a damp cloth. Blot, don't rub. Apply white vinegar (undiluted), only after stain is removed. Apply water rinse with a damp towel. Blot; finish with weighted pad of towels.

### PROCEDURE M

Apply detergent solution (see "Cleaning Solutions") to white towel, leave 3-5 minutes. Blot, don't rub. If stain is removed, finish with a water rinse, then blot, then apply a pad of weighted paper towels. If stain is not removed, continue as follows: Apply ammonia solution using a damp cloth. Blot, don't rub. Apply hydrogen peroxide solution (see "Cleaning Solutions"), let stand 2-3 hours under a weighted sheet of plastic wrap. Repeat application of hydrogen peroxide and allow to dry until removal is complete. Apply white vinegar only after stain is removed. Apply water with damp towel. Blot and dry with weighted pad of paper towels.

### PROCEDURE O

Cover with white cotton towel or brown paper. Lightly apply warm iron to towel or paper until material is absorbed. Be sure towel is large enough to cover the stained area. Never touch the iron directly onto the carpet, as the fiber may melt. Change towel or rotate same towel to a clean area and repeat until all material is absorbed.

### PROCEDURE P

Vacuum as much as possible. Loosen remaining material by tapping with a scrub brush or toothbrush. Tap with brush, do not scrub. Vacuum again. If stain remains, use detergent solution in **Procedure B**.

**Clean Most Frequently  
Used Areas More Often**

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## Professional Cleaning

The most frequently used areas of your carpet—entrances, doorways, traffic lanes, seating areas, etc. will collect dirt much faster than other areas. By cleaning these areas when they first show signs of soiling you can prevent the dirt from spreading to the rest of the carpeted areas of the house. Periodic professional cleaning of the overall carpet is highly recommended. The frequency of overall cleaning may vary depending on the level and type of traffic and the conditions to which your carpet is exposed. This may range from as little as 6 months to 24 months between cleanings. Your carpet should be properly cleaned at least once every 24 months to maintain its appearance and useful life. Shaw recommends only hot water extraction, utilizing carpet cleaning products, equipment, and systems certified through the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval Program. These products are listed at [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org).

**NOTE:** Be sure the professional carpet cleaner cleans with the length of the carpet tile to minimize lifting. If a tile lifts from a truck mount extractor, it can easily be flattened by stepping on the edge of the tile.

**WARNING:** Non-approved cleaning products and topical treatments, applied by you or by a professional carpet cleaner, may result in damage to your carpet that will not be covered by your warranty. Shaw recommends that professional service be performed by an IICRC certified firm. Locate a professional cleaner through the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) at 1-800-835-4624 or [www.iicrc.org](http://www.iicrc.org). Cleaning by other professional services may result in damage that will not be covered by your warranty.

## Do-it-yourself Systems

If you decide to rent a steam cleaning machine and do it yourself, remember recommended carpet cleaning equipment and cleaning products should have certification in the CRI Seal of Approval Programs ([www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org)).