

## CARE INFO: Sisal & Contract Coir Tiles

### CLEANING, REGULAR MAINTENANCE & GENERAL RULES:

Because all of our natural fiber floor coverings derive from different types of plant fibers, they're inherently absorbent. Exposure to the elements and changes in humidity levels can cause excessive wear and a potential environment for mold growth. This means that you don't want to place your natural fiber rug anywhere that's damp or where spills are likely to occur. Sisal is a natural fiber, sensitive to humidity. Changes in measures and bending are possible. Decomposition with large amounts of humidity is also possible.

- Flooring surface has to be very dry
- Relative humidity should be < 75%
- Vacuum regularly. Frequent vacuuming is a good rule of thumb. This will remove the fine dirt particles that can lodge between the fibers and cause additional wear. For best results, use a vacuum with strong suction and brush attachment. A beater bar is not recommended. If you have a beater bar, please set it on the highest vertical setting.
- Remove spills as soon as they are discovered. (*See additional information below.*) A liquid spill will act as a magnet to any dirt particles that are in the rug, causing the dirt to rise to the surface. This dirt may cause a dark stain. To prevent this from happening, try to keep the rug as soil-free as possible by regularly vacuuming.
- Cleaning only by sprinkling it with a HOST Dry-cleaning Kit
- Dry the stains as quickly as possible by means of a white absorbing cloth or tissue
- For casters, it is absolutely necessary to use protective chair mats.
- Professionally clean as needed. Never steam clean or wet-shampoo a natural fiber floor covering.
- *Pro Tip:* Use a coarse doormat or walk off mat at your front door. This will provide a great deal of protection for your new rug. The goal is to remove as much of the outside dirt as possible from the shoes of those entering your home.
- The vacuum cleaner dust bag should be changed when half full. Filters in your heating and air conditioning systems should be changed regularly.

### WALL-TO-WALL CLEANING

Professionally clean as needed. Never steam clean or wet-shampoo a natural fiber floor covering which can cause shrinkage, discoloration, and/or staining. Please be aware that proper maintenance on natural products calls for **Dry Clean Only**. We do not recommend steam cleaning for loose lay rugs. We suggest sourcing a dry cleaning service in your area.

## CLEANING THE BINDING

For routine maintenance of our woven fabric bindings (cotton, linen, jute, etc.), simply vacuum the edge finish as you do the rug. If excessive soiling or spills occur on the binding, a dry extraction cleaning system such as HOST will be very effective. Alternatively, you may use a mild, neutral cleaning solution on spots and small soiled areas, but be sure to test an inconspicuous area first to ensure that the cleaner will not affect the fabric colors.

Once you've tested an area, follow these steps:

- Blend just a couple of drops of liquid dish washing detergent with a quart of warm water and add it to a spray bottle.
- Lightly mist a small amount of solution on the spot; do not saturate the area.
- Blot with a clean cloth.
- Do not allow the area to stay wet for more than a few hours.
- If it is not drying by itself, apply heat with a hair dryer.
- To maintain leather bindings, simply wipe the surface with a damp cloth or sponge.

## MOLD & MILDEW GROWTH

Exposure to the elements and changes in humidity levels can potentially create an environment for the growth of mold or mildew. This means that you shouldn't place your natural fiber rug anywhere that's damp or where spills are likely to occur. Seagrass is especially susceptible to mold and mildew growth. Mold and mildew spots may not respond to the cleaning procedures that work with other types of soil, but we strongly recommend that you try the *HOST Dry Cleaning Kit*.

- If that does not work, or if the mold is on a seagrass rug, thoroughly mix one part liquid chlorine bleach with six parts water in a spray bottle.
- Test the mixture by spraying a little in a corner of the rug (not on the binding).
- If bleaching occurs, dilute the solution and re-test until it is safe to use.
- Mist the solution lightly on the moldy area, using a soft brush to work it down into the weave to reach all the mold growth.
- After five or ten minutes rub the area with a clean, dry cloth. Repeat if necessary
- When you are finished, be certain that the rug dries thoroughly within five or six hours, using a hair dryer on the damp spot if required.

If mold or mildew persists, your setting is probably too humid for the use of your rug. The rug may be permanently damaged; we recommend prompt removal and replacement with another material.

## STAIN REMOVAL GUIDELINES

One of the most crucial areas of carpet maintenance is removal of spots and spills—they need immediate attention. A liquid spill, even if it's only water, will act as a magnet to any dirt particles that are in the rug. When spills are discovered, having the necessary cleaning materials at hand are very useful. Please read these guidelines first before using the stain chart. Then, find the type of stain that you need to treat in the chart below, then refer to the key below for the recommended treatment. You can purchase the **HOST Dry Cleaning Kit** on under 'Cleaning Accessories' in our Resources web page. Remember to follow these guidelines before treatment:

- Remove spills at first notice. Immediately blot (do not rub) spills with white paper towels or a clean absorbent cloth. Scoop up solids.
- Blot—DO NOT RUB! Blot the spot with a clean, absorbent white cloth or paper towel. Rubbing can work the liquid deeper into the fibers.
- Pretest any spot-removal treatment in an inconspicuous area.
- Apply the cleaning agent listed on the **Spot Removal Chart** to an absorbent towel and begin to blot up the spill with a blotting motion. Flip cloth to prevent reapplying soil.
- Do NOT saturate or oversue water.
- Work inward from the edge of the spot to prevent excess spreading.
- Wait a few minutes for the cleaning agent to work on the spot.
- Once the cleaning agent has removed the spot, blot excessive moisture by applying pressure with paper towels or a dry absorbent cloth.
- Rinse with clear water applied to a clean cloth (do not apply water directly to the rug).
- Remove excess moisture by applying pressure with paper towels.
- To remove spots caused by solid substances, first remove any remaining material. Scrape it up with a tool, always working from the outside of the spot toward the center.
- Wait a few minutes for the cleaning agent to work on the spot. Follow recommended directions.



Host Dry Cleaning Kit



Sisal-Guard

# SPOT REMOVAL CHART

**Solvent**= HOST Spot Remover, or any other commercial dry cleaning solvent

**Detergent**= 1 teaspoon laundry detergent (without bleach) & 1 cup lukewarm water

**Vinegar**= 1/4 cup white vinegar & 1/4 cup water

**Ammonia**= 1 teaspoon clear household ammonia and 1/2 cup water

<b>A</b>	Use HOST, Capture, Or other Commercial Grade Dry Cleaner for Carpets	<b>F</b>	Detergent, blot, ammonia, blot, water, blot, solvent, blot
<b>B</b>	Solvent, blot, detergent, blot, water, blot	<b>G</b>	Freeze with ice cube, shatter with blunt object, vacuum, solvent, blot (for wax, place paper over wax, iron with warm - not hot - iron to absorb)
<b>C</b>	Detergent, blot, ammonia, blot, detergent, blot, water, blot	<b>H</b>	Blot as much as possible, cool water, blot, mild detergent, blot
<b>D</b>	Detergent, blot, vinegar, blot, detergent, blot, water, blot	<b>I</b>	Acetone polish remover, blot, repeat
<b>E</b>	Detergent, blot, ammonia, blot, vinegar, blot, detergent, blot, water, blot	<b>J</b>	Mild detergent solution, blot, methylated mineral spirits or turpentine, blot

NATURAL FIBER SPOT CLEANING CHART			
TYPE OF SPILL	REMEDY	TYPE OF SPILL	REMEDY
Beer or Liquor	<b>A or D</b>	Ketchup	<b>A or C</b>
Blood	<b>A or D</b>	Lipstick	<b>A or B</b>
Butter	<b>A or D</b>	Mascara	<b>A or B</b>
Candy	<b>A or E</b>	Mayonnaise	<b>A or C</b>
Coffee	<b>A or E</b>	Merthiolate	<b>A and E</b>
Chocolate	<b>A or D</b>	Mustard	<b>B</b>
Crayon	<b>B and A</b>	Milk	<b>A and E</b>
Cream	<b>J</b>	Nail Polish	<b>I and A</b>
Egg	<b>A or C</b>	Oil (cooking)	<b>A or B</b>
Feces	<b>A or C</b>	Oil (furniture)	<b>A or B</b>
Food Coloring	<b>C and A</b>	Paint (latex)	<b>A or F</b>
Fruit Juice	<b>A or E</b>	Paint (oil base)	<b>A or B</b>
Furniture Polish	<b>A or C</b>	Rust	<b>A</b>
Glue (model)	<b>I</b>	Shoe Polish	<b>A or B</b>
Glue (white)	<b>C and A</b>	Soft Drinks	<b>A or E</b>
Gravy	<b>A or E</b>	Tar	<b>A and B</b>
Gum	<b>A or G</b>	Tea	<b>A or D</b>
Hair Spray	<b>A or B</b>	Urine (fresh)	<b>H and A</b>
Hand Lotion	<b>A or B</b>	Urine (old)	<b>H and A</b>
Ice Cream	<b>A or E</b>	Vomit	<b>A or B</b>
Ink (ball point)	<b>A or E</b>	Wax	<b>G</b>
Ink (fountain)	<b>A or E</b>	Watercolors	<b>A or F</b>
Ink (felt tip)	<b>A or E</b>	Wine	<b>A or E</b>