



**Eco-Smart, Inc.**

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## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE: SEAGRASS AND MOUNTAINGRASS**

Please note that the information herein is about sisal, seagrass and mountaingrass fibers only. Below is a brief description of the natural fibers outlined in this document:

### **SISAL:**

The sisal fibers are harvested from the Agave plant. The Agave plant is indigenous to Central America and the very southern part of North America. More recently, the Agave plant has been transplanted to South America, particularly in the country of Brazil. The sisal fiber is strong and versatile. When woven into a carpet, it is naturally sound absorbing, static-free and durable.

### **SEA GRASS:**

Seagrass fibers are harvested from perennial grasses of the coastal marshes, and are native to the monsoon climates of the Pacific Ocean. Exported primarily from China, these reeds are woven together while still "green," and when dried the reeds turn rigid. The non-porous, smooth skin has a natural green sheen that helps to resist staining.

### **MOUNTAIN GRASS:**

These perennial grasses are harvested from the higher elevations of the Pacific Rim. Exported from China, these reeds are treasured for their golden color and rich texture. Natural fibers have variances in the graining and coloration that are part of the natural beauty of the products. These naturally occurring irregularities are to be expected and are typical characteristics of these types of floorcoverings.

**THE NATURAL FIBER CARE PROGRAM:**

A comprehensive carpet care program consist of four elements:

1. Preventive maintenance
2. Vacuuming
3. Regular cleaning
4. Stain removal

**PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE:**

1. Walk-off mats should be used at all entrances to absorb soil and moisture. Mats should be cleaned on a regular basis so that they will not become sources of soil. Ask your local retailer about purchasing quality walk-off mats. Keep sidewalks and entranceways free of excessive dirt and substances that can be tracked into the home.
2. Use a protective barrier of heavy cardboard or plywood when moving heavy wheeled furniture such as a piano, buffet, etc.
3. The use of protective roller cups is recommended with use of chairs, furniture or appliances over carpet with pad underlayment.
4. When using area rugs over your carpet, frequently remove the rug and clean it regularly. Clean and restore the pile of the carpet that is underneath the rug. After cleaning your carpet, allow time for the carpet to completely dry before replacing rugs or walking on the carpet.
5. Protect natural fiber flooring from prolonged periods of direct sunlight with blinds, shades or awnings. Eco-Smart recommends Eco-Flector Blinds or Screen and Earth-shade Window Treatments.

**VACUUMING:**

The most important step in caring for your natural fiber flooring is vacuuming. Vacuum thoroughly and frequently, particularly in high traffic areas. Bear in mind that walking on soiled flooring permits the soil particles to work their way below the surfaces of the pile where they are far more difficult to remove. Particles left in carpet will wear fibers prematurely. Frequent vacuuming removes these particles from the surfaces before this happens.

For rooms with light traffic, vacuum the traffic lanes twice weekly and the entire area once a week. Those areas with higher traffic require that the traffic lanes be vacuumed daily and the entire area twice weekly. Up to three passes of the machine will suffice for light soiling, but five to seven passes for heavily soiled areas. Vacuuming across the traffic pattern occasionally, rather in the usual direction of the traffic will help to prevent matting.

**Vacuum cleaner recommendations:**

1. We recommend the use of a strong suction vacuum for daily care of your flooring. Vacuums with a beater bar are not effective due to the weave. The strong suction of the vacuum pulls out the fine dirt, which has accumulated between the fibers on the underlay.
2. Vacuums with top-loading bags are preferred over bottom loading bags. The top-loading bag helps to ensure that the vacuum does not lose effectiveness as the bag fills. Replaceable paper bags do a better job of trapping the small particles than do the cloth bags. Cloth bags tend to let smaller particles back into the air. Vacuum bags should be frequently replaced, at least when the bag is 1/2 full and not past 3/4 full. Make sure that the belt driving the beater bar is in good shape and the bar actually rotates when in touch with the carpet.
3. A good vacuum cleaner is vital to prolong the life of your carpet. An inexpensive machine will remove surface dirt, but will not effectively remove the hidden dirt and particles embedded in the pile.

**REGULAR CLEANING:**

Saturation of natural fibers with water can cause undesirable changes in dimensions and color; therefore, steam cleaning or any other methods that involve water are not desirable for overall cleaning. We recommend the methods that do not involve water saturation such as Host and Capture dry cleaning. These methods incorporate a moist "absorbent powder" that absorbs dirt and allows the powder to be removed during vacuuming.

**STAIN REMOVAL PROCEDURE:**

**General instructions:**

Prompt attention to spots and spills is essential. Remove solids from a spill by gently scraping with a spoon or dull knife. Quickly absorb as much liquid as possible by blotting with white paper towels and replacing them as they become saturated. Always blot spills, never scrub or rub abrasively as a fuzzy area may result. When blotting, work from the outer edge toward the center of the spot to avoid spreading the spill and enlarging the problem. To absorb any remaining moisture from the fiber, place a half-inch layer of white towels over the spot and apply pressure. Change the towels as they become wet and repeat until the carpet is only slightly damp. On the damp area, put more towels weighted down with a heavy nonstaining object, such as a plastic milk jug filled with water and leave overnight.

The following recommendations should be used for spot cleaning:

**A. WATER SOLUBLE STAINS:** Mop up the spill immediately with an undyed cloth or paper towel. Blot or sponge the discolored area with small amounts of detergent or carpet shampoo and lukewarm water. Take special care not to over saturate the fibers. Over saturation can cause water marking and discoloration. Blot up the detergent or shampoo with cloth or paper towels. Repeat if necessary. Dry the matting quickly using a paper towel working from the outside of the spill toward the center.

**B. GREASE:** Scrape as much of the stain as possible using a butter knife, spoon or shop vac. Apply a volatile solvent such as Carbona, Energine or K2R to towels or spotting cloth and repeat blotting. Use sparingly! Do not pour or spray directly on the natural fiber as damage to the backing or adhesive underneath may occur. Check to see if solvent is dissolving the substance. Work from the outside of the stain toward the center to prevent spreading. Dry the fibers quickly, again for the outside towards the middle using a blow dryer. Protective gloves should be worn, as the solvent will quickly remove oils from the skin and may result in irritation. Provide adequate ventilation. Do not use flammable solvents. Follow with procedure in A.

**C. FREEZE:** Freeze stains, such as chewing gum and candle wax, with ice or commercially available products in an aerosol can. Shatter with blunt object.

**PRO:** professional cleaner

**Specific stain removal procedures for natural fiber carpets:**

Stain	A	B	C	PRO	Other	Stain	A	B	C	PRO	Other
Alcoholic Beverages	X					Grease (auto)		X		X	
Asphalt		X		X		Grease (food)	X				
Beer	X					Ink (ballpoint)		X		X	
Berries	X					Ink (permanent)		X		X	
Blood (wet)	X					Ink (washable)	X			X	
Blood (dry)	X			X		Lipstick		X			
Butter	X					Milk	X				
Chewing gum			X			Mustard	X				
Chocolate	X			X		Nail Polish					Polish removal (non-oily)
Coffee	X			X		Paint (latex wet)	X				
Cola drinks	X					Paint (latex dry)		X			
Cosmetics		X				Paint (oil)		X		X	
Crayon		X				Rust				X	
Deicer (Calcium Chloride)	X				Vacuum	Urine	X			X	
Excrement	X					Vomit		X			
Food dyes	X					Wine	X				
Furniture polish	X	X		X							

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