



Shaw Industries, Inc.
616 East Walnut Avenue
P.O. Drawer 2128
Dalton, GA 30722-2128
706.278.3812

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Use of Protective Carpet Films

The Carpet and Rug Institute has the following recommendations in Installation Guidelines 104 and 105 for commercial and residential carpets:

“Materials for Protections – If required to protect the finished floor covering from dirt or paint, or if additional work is to be done after the installation, cover it with a non-staining building material paper.

Caution: Plastic Sheeting should not be placed over any carpet installation because it may present a slip hazard. In addition, it may trap moisture, retarding adhesive cure and/or promoting mold and mildew growth.”

In addition, some plastic films may contain an adhesive to hold it in place. This adhesive can leave a residue on the surface of the carpet which can result in rapid soiling.

Also consider the following warnings from manufacturers of plastic film:

“Do not apply film if carpet, pad or the sub floor is damp. Damp carpet or padding and uncured concrete may cause moisture vapor to rise. Rising moisture that is prevented from escaping may cause discoloration of carpet fibers.

Do not apply film over newly laid carpet that is direct glued. The area should be ventilated for 48 to 72 hours to allow off gassing. Do not apply film until the adhesive used in the installation is completely dry.

Do not allow film to remain on carpet for more that 30 days. Remove old film and replace immediately with fresh film.”

If plastic film has been used and the film’s adhesive has adhered to the carpet’s face, use the following cleaning procedure: Pre-spray with an approved Carpet and Rug Institute’s Seal of Approval (SOA) traffic lane cleaner following the manufacturer’s mixing instructions. Agitate thoroughly using an agitation machine with counter rotating brushes. Allow approximately ten minutes of dwell time and then extract using hot water only in the rinse tank. Speed dry the carpet using air movers and fans. This cleaning process may need to be repeated if the adhesive from the plastic remains.

Additional soil/stain treatments should not be applied until all adhesive residues have been removed.