



My Go-2-Guy Handyman Services

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How to Assassinate Salt Stains

Salt stains are a common problem in our Canadian climate. Rock salt is used to deice sidewalks, driveways, and streets, making it safer for us to strut about. Unfortunately we end up tracking rock salt into our cars and homes. When the wet saltlick from your boots dry, it creates a white crusty stain on your carpeting.

We like to keep things chemical-free whenever possible, it helps to limit fumes and it's better for the environment. In this case you can remove salt stains with nothing more than vinegar and warm water.

Instructions

In a spray bottle, bowl, or bucket, mix equal parts white vinegar and warm water. The smell of vinegar isn't a very appealing one, but it's a powerful natural cleaning agent and will dissipate quickly.

Spray the solution onto the stain or pour a small amount of the solution onto the area if you're using a bowl or bucket.

Lightly scrub the stain with a small brush to agitate the carpet fibers. Don't push too hard. The objective in this case is to stir up lift the salt, not imbed it deeper into the fibers.

Once that is done, begin to dab rather than scrub to absorb the salty stain. Dabbing the spot will help lift the stain, while scrubbing will force it down into the carpet. Use fresh sections of the cloth to dry the stained area; this avoids spreading the stain around. If you have access to a Shop-Vac or Wet/Dry Vac you can use it to help suck the stain right out of the carpet.

Don't be discouraged if the stain lingers, it happens sometimes. Salty can be a nasty little bugger to get rid of but there is no reason this vinegar method should not work.

We hope this is helpful when the time comes to rid your homes and cars of the pesky salt stains and I think we all hope that'll be sooner rather than later.