

Technical Services Bulletin

Dye Transfer on Hardfloor Surfaces

Occasionally a consumer may experience miniscule amounts of dye transfer or “crocking” with post dyed fibers. Red hues are the most prone to this condition due to the heavy concentration of dyestuffs required to achieve these colors. The degree of color migration displayed by a carpet can be measured using the AATCC 165 Colorfastness to Crocking test method (for wet and dry crocking). In this test samples are evaluated by using the Chromatic Transference Scale rating of 1 (severe) to 5 (none or negligible), with a minimum rating of 4 being the accepted industry tolerance. In many cases small amounts of dye transfer can be remedied by cleaning the carpet using the hot water extraction method.

In some cases residual carpet dye may transfer onto tile or ceramic. When this occurs it can be removed using the following steps:

- 1) Strip the floor of all wax or other finishes. This is often all that is required to remove dye residue. Rinse with water. Caution must be emphasized not to get any stripping solution on the carpet.
- 2) If any dye remains use Isopropyl Alcohol sparingly to dissolve it.
- 3) In the event trace dye still remains repeat the Isopropyl Alcohol application and gently rub the area with very fine, .004 steel wool (never use wool on hardwood or laminate).
- 4) If all else fails apply 40-volume hydrogen peroxide and allow it to sit until dry.