Volume 1 No. 1

Furniture Indentations

Furniture Indentations are the result of the concentrated force imposed on a carpet and carpet cushion from a table, chair, couch or other furnishing. These forces not only compress a carpet's pile yarns, they can cause the carpet's primary and secondary backings to become stretched (distorted), particularly if the cushion used does not have the adequate density to provide the required compression force deflection and compression resistance necessary to prevent furniture indentations in a carpet. This is because polypropylene, the material used in the construction of most carpet primary and secondary backings is a naturally elastic material.

Avoiding furniture indentations is a genuine concern of carpet consumers. Although all carpet types and constructions are prone to develop furniture indentations, generally speaking, heavier, more densely constructed carpets, and carpets constructed of olefin will be more susceptible to show furniture indentations than lighter weight, less dense carpets, and carpets made of other fiber types because the more surface area on these carpet's face causes furniture indentations to be more apparent, and because of the lower resiliency of olefin compared to other fibers.

The selection of adequately dense carpet cushion helps prevent furniture indentations. Occasionally re-arranging furniture can help, as well as the use of furniture leg coasters. However, one can expect some degree of furniture indentations to occur when a room contains tables and heavy furniture.

When furniture indentations occur they typically will not respond to vacuuming alone. Methods used to help remove furniture indentations include the use of steam, or heat, such as by using a garment steamer, or a damp cloth and hot iron (with caution) along with grooming the carpet's pile in effort to vertically re-orientate the compressed pile yarns. More recently, the use of ice cubes to remove furniture has come into vogue. However, if the carpet's backing materials have been distorted, some evidence of the furniture indentation will always be apparent.

The presence of furniture indentations in a carpet that cannot be removed is not an indication of a manufacturing defect, or a valid reason to file a warranty claim, but is instead what will naturally occur when a carpet is subjected to home furnishings that do not provide adequate weight dissipation.

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