

Pet Stains and Odor Control

The TG's Report



TG's

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Pet Stains Can Be Treated

We love Fluffy and Muffin...most of the time. While pets are a great source of companionship and comfort, they are, after all, still animals. Domestic animals - just like the wild ones - are creatures of habit. In fact, the more certain the habit, the more they are at ease. Once a pet has used the inside of the home for what we hope would happen outside, they may have a difficult time "relearning" the habit of outdoor potty breaks.

While most household dirt is simple soiling, pet waste is considered damage once it contacts indoor textiles such as carpet, upholstery, and structural material. Due to the chemical makeup of pet urine, the fabric in question is now damaged. There are salts, and other biological waste products in pet urine and feces which simple cleaning can not accommodate. Interestingly, unless the pet has a bladder infection, urine is actually sterile. The odor that comes from pet urine is caused by bacteria that feeds on the urine.

Usually one can clean up the pet urine if it is caught immediately after the pet "oops." However, over time the urine will soak into the carpet and pad and now become damage. This is where a professional carpet cleaning company who is certified in odor control can help.

While each case is different, the treatment strategy begins with injecting enzymes and deodorizers into the carpet and pad. This solution is then "flooded" and extracted with a Water Claw. If this approach is not sufficient, then a more aggressive step can be taken.



In the most sever cases, the approach would include rolling back the carpet, steam cleaning it front and back, removal and replacement of the padding, enzyme application and sealing of the subfloor with polyurethane, then restretching the carpet. In some cases areas of the dry wall may need to be removed. This is especially probable in the case of cat urine since many cats will

Oops!



(Please see "Pet Stains" inside)

("Pet Stains" Continued)

"mark" along the edge of a room instead of the middle of it. There is no way to reliably remove urine from dry wall. When removal up to the point of damage is required, the studs in the wall will be sealed as well.

It must be noted that there is no way to insure a pet will not use the indoors again. There are many claims made for certain "chemicals" that will make a pet not use the carpet, but none are certain. Remember, most animals will consider themselves part of, if not in charge of, the family with which they live. They may be VERY strong willed! Further, animals have a much stronger sense of smell than humans. Even when we are "certain" we can't smell the urine, a pet may still be able to.

Finally, pets are tricky - they have urinated in places we would never suspect. They know where they went, but the odor may be so diffuse that humans have a difficult time locating the exact spot.

TG's Carpet Cleaning and Restoration is fully certified in odor control. We have extensive training and experience in pet urine and feces odor control. We have state of the art chemicals as well as the strategic know-how for each case.

ODOR CONTROL: It Depends On the Cause...

Ever walked into a home or office and been hit with that, "What is that smell" experience? What has entered our nose is called a VOC - *Volatile Organic Compound*. A VOC is a chemical compound floating in the air from whatever substance caused the odor. The "volatile" part of this compound is that it reacts with your nose so you can smell it.

Cooking foods (bacon, fish, etc) will often leave an odor that actually "sticks" to walls, upholstery and the carpet. Perfumes, pets, mold, and cleaning products will often leave VOC's long after the actual source of these odors is gone. Smoke (from burning foods or tobacco) acts in the same way. The cure for odors will depend on what caused the odor to begin with.

In professional odor remediation, the technician must first diagnose what caused the odor. For example, protein odors (those caused by burning foods) will not respond to many remediation techniques. In the case of a house fire, wiping the exposed areas such as walls, floors, and ceilings with an ammonia based solvent is the beginning of remediation.

Pairing agents can be used in through out the air and bind VOC is still there, we can not



odor remediation. These highly reactive compounds are dissipated with the VOC causing it to become inert. That is, even though the longer smell it.

A professional restoration company can use fogging and **Ozone** machines to get to odors that can not be reached by simple wiping down. Ozone is an oxygen compound that literally "burns" up the odor molecule. That is, Ozone does not mask the odor, it actually destroys it. When the oxygen molecule comes into contact with the VOC, the oxygen binds to the VOC and splits the odor into basic atoms. While Ozone dissipates rapidly after treatment, it is very dangerous to be around during the treatment. Ozone treatments usually take anywhere from 24 to 48 hours to be effective.

Fogging is a pairing agent. A machine that looks like something out of *The Terminator* superheats the pairing agent and particulates it into the air. This fog will travel where the smoke has and neutralize it. The fog can go where it is impossible to clean and thus control the odors deep inside areas.

As was cited before, structural fires require both chemical and manual removal of odor causing agents such as soot. Some of the structural material may need to be sealed to keep any remaining odor from escaping.



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TG's Carpet and Restoration Services is experienced and certified to remediate odors of all kinds.