

Fiber Sealants and Topical Treatments

Fiber Sealants are topical treatments which coat the carpet fibers in a fluorochemical with the aim of reducing adhesion to soil and liquid.

This type of treatment has many drawbacks for luxury handmade carpets made from natural fibers such as wool and silk.

The treatment itself can result in color change, surface streaking, and shading or water marks on delicate natural fibers. Silk is particularly susceptible to alteration of color and a reduced luster as a result of topically applied 'guard' chemicals while also having its natural buoyancy and flexibility reduced.

When applied to wool the treatment reduces the effectiveness of wool's naturally defensive properties.

- The naturally scaly surface of wool fiber makes it soil resistant. Soil will be held high in the carpet pile so it can be easily removed by vacuuming.
- Wool has natural elasticity, so it stands up to everyday wear and tear, and resists crushing from traffic and furniture.
- Wool's natural coating prevents penetration by water-based liquids. This is especially beneficial because around 80% of spills are water-based.

A topical chemical treatment will typically wear off and decompose unevenly as a result of routine cleaning and foot traffic. After the chemical treatment begins to wear off, when re-staining occurs, the breakdown of the chemical additive will attract dirt and cause the carpet to appear more affected by soiling than prior to the treatment.

In Conclusion

While topical stain resistant products on the market may claim to prevent soil and stains, there is no guarantee that the overall appearance and performance of the carpet or rug will not be compromised.

Experience shows that appropriate care through routine vacuuming and periodic professional cleaning will protect and maintain the beauty, quality and overall appearance of your Edward Fields carpets and rugs.