



Fibre & Fabric Protection



Contents

Discover the intricacies of fabric and fibre protection – deepening your understanding of effective strategies and pitfalls when protecting carpets and upholstery.

2 The Products

3 Application

4 Regular Maintenance

4 Capabilities & Limitations

4 Vacuuming Maintenance

5 Spill Clean Up

6 Tips & Tricks

6 Coverage

The Products

Carpet & Fabric Protectors

For carpet & upholstery protection the choice of products depends largely on what type of work you normally do, prices you are able to get for the service and personal choice. Below is a summary of the Actichem protection products including comparative notes.

More information can be found in the product data sheets available on our website.

Fabric Shield RTU

PREMIUM WATER-BASED UPHOLSTERY PROTECTOR.

- Compatible with water cleanable fabrics such as wool, polyester, nylon, polypropylene and other synthetic materials.
- Unlike solvent-based protectors, you can use Fabric Shield RTU on damp or recently cleaned fabrics.
- No VOC's, low odour, non-flammable, no colour bleeding, provides excellent water, oil and stain repellence.

Dilution: Ready to use



Fabric Shield SV

PREMIUM SOLVENT PROTECTOR FOR NATURAL & DELICATE FABRICS.

- Compatible with Dry Clean Only fabrics like cotton, jute, linen and other natural fibres. Also suitable for synthetic fibres and many leather surfaces.
- Ideal for use on new fabrics. Cleaned fabrics must be completely dry.
- Has a mild alcohol/acetate odour and is flammable.
- Note that a small number of fabric dyes can be affected by solvents.
- Provides the highest stain protection on fabrics.

Dilution: Ready to use



Fibre Shield

PREMIUM PROTECTOR FOR CARPETS.

- Modern fluorochemical polymer technology provides premium protection against water based stains, oil based stains and general grime.
- Specialty stain blockers provide added protection against acid dye stains caused by red cordial spills.
- Water based low VOC Formula. Exceeds the specifications for the safe protection of wool.

Dilution: 1:2 to 1:4



Application

Always pre-test in an inconspicuous location for substrate sensitivity to chemicals. Ensure that the carpet/fabric is clean and free of chemical residue before applying the protector.

Steps

1

Step 1: Spray the protector 25 - 30cm away from the carpet/ upholstery using a smooth back and forth motion, overlapping slightly. Carpet/ fabric should be wetted. Do not overapply.

2

Step 2: Brush with a soft brush to spread the protector evenly.

3

Step 3: Align fabric and speed dry.

*Please note: these instructions are a general overview of the basic process of applying a protector. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the specific requirements for each individual product before you apply any protector to carpets or upholstery.



Watch the video on youtube detailing how to apply Fibre Shield RTU to upholstery.



Regular Maintenance

How long does the protection last?

Carpet & fabrics protected with Fabric Shield & Fibre Shield should have a “top-up” treatment every 6-12 months depending on the frequency of use. The protector should be reapplied after wet extraction cleaning.

Capabilities & Limitations.

A fabric/fiber protector is a treatment to the individual fibers of upholstery and carpets. Sometimes, the expectations of protectors are exaggerated, likening them to an impenetrable coat of paint. However, this is not the case. Rather, protectors increase the ability to successfully maintain carpets and upholstery, making it easier to keep them looking new for longer. It gives time to clean up spills, makes carpets & fabrics easier to clean, makes professional cleans more successful and improves vacuum efficacy on carpets.

A Treatment, Not a Coating

The treatment enables the fibres to repel oily and water based spills. Liquid beading on the fabric surface is often regarded as an indication of protection. However, the beading phenomena typically only occurs on freshly applied substrates and is not a definitive indication of protection. Because the treatment is not a continuous coating, once the fabric starts getting used the beading phenomena decreases but this does not mean that the fibre is not protected. The degree of beading is also significantly affected by the type and tightness of the yarn.

Lessens The Chances of Permanent Stains

The protector treatment prevents spills from being immediately absorbed into the fibre and provides that window of opportunity where the spill can be cleaned away before it becomes a stubborn or permanent stain. Even spills and soiling which are not removed in a timely manner will still be more successfully removed by a professional cleaning contractor.

Easier General Cleaning

Protector treatments make subsequent cleans easier, quicker and more successful. The fabric or carpet will release soils and stains more readily to both owner spot cleaning and periodical deep cleans. The Fibre Shield also promotes easier release of dry, particulate soiling to dry vacuuming.

Vacuuming Maintenance

To ensure the longevity of a protector, general care and maintenance of the substrate is very important. Carpets and upholstery must be vacuumed on a regular basis. Traffic lanes and entrances should receive due focus in vacuum cleaning schedules.

Regularly vacuuming upholstery is crucial, particularly in homes with pets, as they often shed hair. The removal of hair is essential. Hair and other non-soluble, particulate soiling holds oily soils and staining agents in contact with the fibres which increases the risk of stubborn or permanent stains occurring.

Spill Clean Up

Must be treated straight away

Spills that are not removed in a timely manner, may still penetrate into the fibres and if left could become a stubborn or permanent stain. It is recommended that spills are blotted away and removed as soon as possible after they occur.

Treat spills & stains with Actichem Conquer

The correct chemistry must be used when cleaning a spill or stain. Google recipes and supermarket products can damage the protection treatment and are often not effective in dissolving the staining agent sufficiently, leading to overwetting and fibre distortion from agitation. Spills, stains and soiling must be treated using a WoolSafe & CleanSeal certified product such as AP462 Conquer in the manner directed.

For more information on Conquer and where to buy, visit our website or contact us on (02) 4966 5516.



Conquer

A multi-task spotting solution effective on a wide range of water based and oily stains, with the added benefit of anti-resoiling encapsulation technology.



How to treat spills

The correct method for the clean up of spills and removal of stains is essential to ensure no damage is done to the carpet or upholstery in the process. Following the tips below will decrease the chances of damaging the fibres.

Do's & don'ts when treating a stain.



Blot the stain, don't rub it.



Use a brush to tamp the stain, don't brush it.



Don't over wet the fibre, make sure it dries within 60 minutes.



Fibre and Fabric Recommendations

1. **Synthetic fabrics (olefin, nylon, polyester and acrylic)** - these fibres respond best to water based protectors such as Fabric Shield RTU. However the solvent based protector Fabric Shield SV still provides outstanding protection.
2. **Natural Fibres (wool, cotton, silk) and cellulose** - these fibres are best protected with Fabric Shield SV (solvent based). This also limits the problems associated with water based protector use on natural fibres including cellulose browning, water stains, shrinkage and change of hand (especially velvets).
3. **Fabric blends** - where fabrics have a blend of natural and synthetic fibres always protect with Fabric Shield SV (solvent based).
4. **Leather** - Leather articles and furnishings made from non-shiny leather such as suede and nubuck can be protected with Fabric Shield SV (solvent based), however leather is a natural product and extreme care and rigorous pretesting must be conducted. Actichem protection products are not designed for use on aniline leather, faux leather and corrected/pigmented leather.
5. **Microfiber and velvet** - These delicate micro-fibre materials are best protected with Fabric Shield SV (solvent based). It is very important to gently groom the fibres in their natural direction whilst drying. Pretesting in an inconspicuous location must be conducted including a check after the protector is completely dry. Check for dye/colour runs or variation, fibre stiffness and fibre shading.
6. **Carpet** - Both synthetic and wool carpet should be treated with Fibre Shield (water based). Whilst solvent based protectors such as Fabric Shield SV offer impressive stain protection, they do not facilitate the easy release of dry, particulate soiling to vacuuming and increased soiling can occur.

Coverage

Fabric Shield RTU

- Approximately 1Lt per 5 seater lounge or 5m².



Fabric Shield SV

- Approximately 400ml per 5 to 7 seater lounge or



Fibre Shield

- Dilute 1:2 for clean damp carpets. Apply at a rate of 340 to 510ml per 5m². (1 gallon per 400 to 600sq.ft)
- Dilute 1:4 for clean dry carpets. Apply at a rate of 575 to 850ml per 5m². (1 gallon per 250 to 350sq.ft)
- See Actichem protector coverage charts.





Actichem Pty Ltd
11 Gamma Close Beresfield NSW 2322
+612 4966 5516 | www.actichem.com.au
info@actichem.com.au