



How To Remove Fake Tan From Carpet

Professional carpet cleaners ultimate guide

Fake tan stains on carpet are notoriously difficult to remove due to the presence of dihydroxyacetone (DHA), the active ingredient that creates the tanned effect on skin.

DHA reacts chemically with proteins, and when it comes into contact with carpet fibers, it forms a strong bond that penetrates deeply into the material. Since fake tan products are specifically designed to stain, these marks can quickly become stubborn and highly visible. The longer the stain is left untreated, the more it sets into the fibers, making it increasingly challenging to remove and potentially leaving a permanent mark.

It's important to manage expectations with clients before starting the job. While every effort will be made to remove the stain, complete removal isn't always guaranteed. Sometimes, we work magic; other times, we simply do our best with the tools and expertise available.

PRODUCTS

Citrus Gel

A premium quality solvent gel using powerful citrus extracts to remove tough oily spots, tar, gum, bitumen and cosmetics. It's stable gel formula enables it to stay on the spot longer instead of running down to the base of the carpet.

EQUIPMENT

To remove fake tan from carpet & upholstery, you will need:

- **White terry towel** - By using a white towel, no other pigment will bleed onto the carpet.
- **Wet Extraction Machine** - Larger spills should be treated using a wet extraction machine. This will minimise the risk of wick back and ensure an effective solution.



- **Spotting Brush** - When agitating a carpet, don't use the brushing motion as it will damage the carpet fibers. The best method is to tamp or firmly roll the brush over the stain.
- **PPE** - All the necessary PPE needs to be used when working with chemicals.

PROCESS

1. Apply Citrus Gel

Begin by dampening a clean, dry, white absorbent cloth with Citrus Gel, a solvent-based gel designed to break down oily residues and DHA-based stains.

Blot the Citrus Gel onto the stained area, ensuring the affected fibres are well-saturated but not oversoaked. Avoid rubbing at this stage to prevent spreading the stain.

2. Agitate the Stained Area

Using a spotting brush, gently agitate the area by tamping—pressing the brush down repeatedly rather than scrubbing. This helps to work the Citrus Gel into the carpet fibres, loosening the DHA bonds and lifting the stain. Be careful not to use excessive force, as this could damage delicate carpet fibres.

3. Allow Dwell Time

Let the Citrus Gel dwell on the stain for 5 minutes. This resting period allows the gel's active components to break down the stain, making it easier to remove in subsequent steps. Avoid letting the product dry out during this time.

4. Extract and Rinse

Use wet extraction equipment to thoroughly rinse and extract the treated area. This process removes the dissolved stain and any residue from the Citrus Gel. Ensure the area is rinsed well to prevent any cleaning product from being left behind.

5. Repeat if Necessary

If traces of the stain remain after extraction, repeat Steps 1–4 until no further improvement is seen. DHA stains can be persistent, so multiple treatments may be required for complete removal.

6. Treat Remaining Color Stains with Conquer O2

For any residual color stain left after Citrus Gel treatment, apply Conquer O2, a powerful oxygenated stain remover. Gently blot the product onto the stain, ensuring even coverage, and remove any excess moisture by blotting with a clean white cloth. Allow the area to air dry, as Conquer O2 will continue to work as it dries, breaking down any lingering stain particles.

FURTHER NOTES

Alternative Products

If preferred, Conquer O2 can be used in place of Citrus Gel during the initial steps. Follow the same procedure, adjusting for Conquer's oxygenated stain-removing properties.

For Particularly Stubborn Stains

For DHA stains that are deeply set or especially difficult to remove, treat the affected area with Actichem Stain Fix. This advanced stain remover is specifically designed for challenging dye-based stains and can be used as a follow-up treatment when other products have not achieved full removal.

Low Moisture Cleaning Alternatives

If you are using an encapsulation or low-moisture cleaning method, substitute Conquer O2 for Citrus Gel. Conquer's unique formulation works effectively in these conditions and allows for proper stain removal without the need for excess moisture or rinsing.

By following these steps and utilising the appropriate products, you can maximise the chances of successfully removing fake tan stains from carpets while managing expectations for the final result.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- [Citrus Gel PDS](#)
- [Conquer O2 PDS](#)
- [Spotting Guide](#)
- [Knowledge Centre](#)

Actichem

☎ 1800 108 800

📞 (02) 4966 5516

✉ info@actichem.com.au

📍 11 Gamma Close Beresfield NSW 2322

www.actichem.com.au