

Restoration Training Services Presents

Professional FABRIC CLEANING



By Cleaning Industry Author Mark Exner

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TEXTBOOK # RTS1003UFT

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MODULE 3 FABRIC CHARACTERISTICS:

NATURAL YARNS

CELLULOSIC – Fabric Yarns from Plant Based Fibers

COTTON



Real cotton plant



Hattian cotton (raw) fabric



Front and back of Hattian cotton



Faux cotton (acrylic)



Formal Dining Chair



Designer cotton fabric



Denim top & back



Cotton rug backing

Cottons background:

Cotton comes from the seed of the cotton plant. It is found primarily in fabrics and area rugs. Cotton is used extensively in the foundation yarns of many area rugs. This opens a problem for cleaners being subject to shrinking the area rug if cleaned improperly.

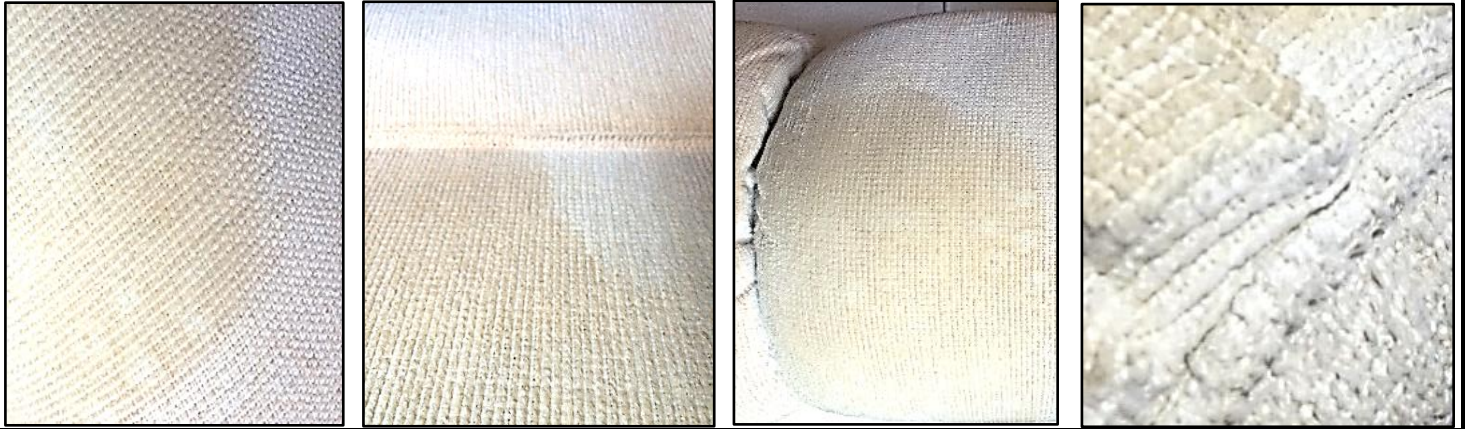
COTTON CLEANING CONCERNS: ADVANTAGES

1. Cotton is 50% stronger when wet.
2. Cotton is relatively tolerant to strong alkaline cleaning solutions. A maximum alkaline of a 9.5 pH is recommended. Each cotton fabric and its dyes may be tolerant to a different pH, so test well with patience. However, alkaline solutions should be neutralized with an acidic fiber rinse product and rinsed well.

COTTON CLEANING CONCERNS: DISADVANTAGES

1. Cotton is very absorbent, (16-17 %) second only to wool.
2. Expect extended dry times. Extract excess moisture as possible when cleaning.
3. Damaged by strong acidic pH. A stronger pH than 2 may etch the yarn, causing a permanent black spot. In fact, all the natural yarns are subject to damage with too strong an acid pH.
4. A small portion of cotton fibers may shed during agitation. Agitation should be performed with care as in any natural yarn. It is cotton lint that shed easily in viscose area rugs.

TANNIN ACID STAINING: BROWNOUTS AND CHEMICAL STAINING



Brownout on cotton chenille fabrics. This was caused by a cleaner using a 12 pH cleaning agent on it.

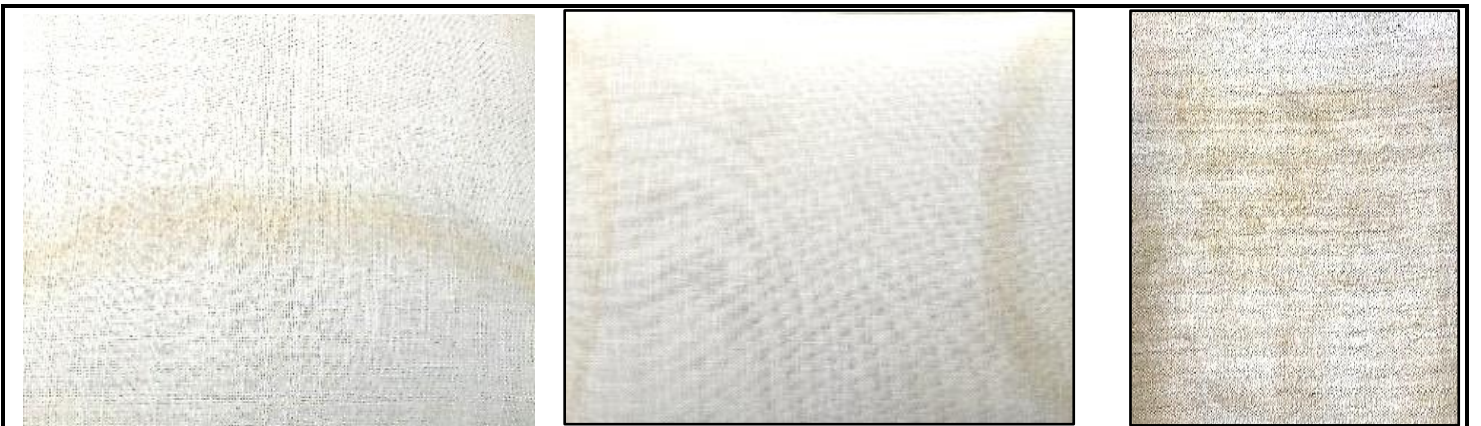


Brownout on a cotton sofa cushion

Severe brownout on cotton

Brownout on wool rug

Customer Cleaning Causes Brownout Condition:



These two images are water rings on linen fabric from alkaline residue of home product.

Brownout on Jute

Causes: Too much alkaline or too strong alkaline cleaning solutions that have been applied, then left in the yarn. Then it was not neutralized or rinse well. May be a pre-existing condition from *another* cleaning person!

Cure: Apply anti-browning agent, which is acidic pH. Anti-browning agent may work slowly, be patient. You may rinse the anti-browning agent with fiber rinse if desired. Acidic solutions may damage silk fiber.

Prevention: Rinse fabric out with acidic solutions all fiber rinses. (pH 3 - 6)

2. INSPECTIONS



If fabric is very soiled, you may need to agitate east & west, and north & south.



Agitation: 1. With a horsehair (soft) brush.

2. With a cotton mitt.

3. With a mitt w/ strip.

4. A towel.

5. Extract (rinse / flush) fabric with acidic / fiber rinse OR fabric detergent.

NEVER rinse fabric with water only. You may form rings in the fabric when it dries.

