THE BEE LINE

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While carpet cleaning may seem like a simple task that requires little training, several factors come into play that can make a big difference in how your carpet looks after cleaning. Remember, the benefits of professional carpet cleaning go far beyond just a clean appearance. Not only does it improve the overall hygiene of your home, but it also has surprising benefits for your health, not to mention the longevity of your carpets. You should be careful to choose a company who understands your carpet to ensure you get the absolute best results.

There are no Easy Answers -

Some of the most common questions that people ask about carpet cleaning includes, "Will the spots come back?", "Will the dents from the furniture come out?", "Will the traffic areas look better after it's done?", and "Will these stains come out?" The answer to these and other questions requires knowledge and experience.

Carpet can be made with a variety of fibers, each

having its own cleaning characteristics. In addition, every fiber handles traffic and wear in its own unique way. Some soils that are easy to remove from one carpet may permanently stain another. Then there is the construction of the carpet. Loop pile, friezé, shag, saxony, velvet plush – all of these styles will respond to traffic in different always. The quality and density of the cushion is another factor. Even the unique way the pile

See "HAPPY with Your Carpet" on next page



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yarns are twisted and how tightly packed they are in the carpet backing makes a difference in wearability and cleanability.

Questions an Experienced Cleaner Should Ask You -

An experienced cleaner will assess the condition of your carpet, asking: What is the age of the carpet? How was it cleaned in the past, and how often? Was protector applied during the last cleaning? How old are the spots, spills and stains, and have you tried anything to clean them?

With all of these variables, how can we possibly know what to expect from a carpet cleaning? Unfortunately, it's not an exact science. BUT there are some things that experienced cleaners know about carpet, fibers, soil and stains that give them a clue as to what they can anticipate from the cleaning process. Perhaps the most important consideration is the type of fiber. Just because they are all soft and fluffy does not mean they are all the same.

An experienced cleaner is trained to identify types of fibers and use their knowledge of that fiber's characteristics to anticipate potential challenges. Here are a few examples:

- If a carpet is wool you know that it has excellent resilience, so those crushed traffic areas and furniture indentations have a good chance of coming out. But wool is more easily stained by proteins than other fibers, so some foods, pet urine and other protein sources like blood will be difficult to remove.
- Olefin carpets do not have the resiliency of wool, so high traffic areas tend to pack down and lose that fluffy texture over time. However, Olefin has excellent stain-resistance and color-fastness.
- Stain-resist nylon has excellent resilience and good stain and soil repellency, so carpets made with nylon tend to be the best overall performers. However, depending on how the fiber was dyed, Nylon

- may be bleached by some household chemicals or sunlight.
- Polyester fibers have an affinity for oily soils, so food or petroleum grease spots will be more difficult to remove. But Polyester, like Olefin, is very resistant to stains and bleaching.

The bottom line is that how the carpet looks after cleaning will depend on some factors that are out of our control. But with an experienced cleaner, you can be assured of the best results you possible. At Clean Bee, we use only state-of-the-art equipment and employ only trained professionals. And, with our complete **12-step carpet cleaning process**, we guarantee our service will meet your expectations and ensure you will be 100% satisfied with our service.

Call us today for a FREE, NO OB-**LIGATION** estimate at 815-578-0233 or you can schedule your service appointment online at cleanbee.net. We are always happy to help or answer questions you have.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

What does garlic do when it gets hot? It takes its cloves off!

What kind of socks do grizzlies wear? None, they have bear feet!

What musical instrument can you find in the bathroom? A tuba toothpaste!

How did the pirate get his flag so cheaply? He bought it on sail.



This vegetable soup is so good on a chilly spring night and even better with a grilled sandwich for lunch the next day.

Ingredients

- tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- clove garlic, minced
- medium potato, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped broccoli
- 1/2 cup of frozen corn
- 1/2 cup of torn spinach
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 cup chopped carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped cabbage
- (32 fluid ounce) containers chicken broth
- ounces egg noodles
- cup canned white beans

Spring VEGETABLE Soup

Directions

Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add onion and garlic; cook until tender. Stir in potato, broccoli, corn, spinach, mushrooms, carrots, and cabbage. Pour in chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer 20 minutes, or until potato is tender.

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Prep Time: 15 mins Cook Time: 45 mins Total Time: 1 hr **Servings:**

Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com



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Many U.S. workers may be unknowingly engaging in activities that are hindering their recovery process when sick.

5 Sick Day SLIP-UPS

Here are 5 ways you might be self-sabotaging your recovery when sick -

- **1. You take a hygiene hiatus.** Most people tend to put their regular hygiene habits on hold, including showering, and even brushing their teeth. Maintaining personal hygiene is crucial when you're sick to prevent the spread of illness to others and help prevent additional health problems for you.
- **2. You bail on a balanced diet.** Ignoring nutritional needs can delay your body's ability to heal promptly. A diet filled with nutrient-rich foods is the fuel your body needs to fight off illness. Hydration is equally important; drinking plenty of fluids helps flush out toxins, aiding in the recovery process.
- **3. You worry over work.** The stress of working while sick can delay recovery more than most realize. Surprisingly, the mental stress

from work can directly impact your physical health by increasing cortisol levels, which in turn can suppress immune function, making you susceptible to longer recovery times or, worse, secondary infections.

4. You're all rest, no rally. While rest is essential, incorporating light to moderate activities can be beneficial for both physical and mental health. Studies have found that exercise, when experiencing an infection or sickness, may not only be safe but could also reduce the severity of symptoms and the number of sick days needed as a result.

5. You dodge a doctor's diagnosis.

Consulting a doctor when sick is crucial for faster, proper recovery. Virtual appointments can serve as a convenient option for getting the care you need, with doctors recommending in-person follow-ups when necessary.

5 AFFORDABLE Ways to Make the MOST of Summer

Family vacations can get pretty pricey. Make the most of the sunny season while sticking to your budget using these five tips.

- **1. Book early -** Don't wait! One of the best ways to make the most of your summer and save is to plan ahead and book early. If you want affordable, flexible flights, aim to book your trip 2.5 to 7.5 months in advance. Remember accommodations, concerts and activities can sell out months in advance. To make sure your family doesn't miss out on the fun, book ahead.
- **2. Look for deals -** Watch for promotions and special offers on activities, attractions and events. Check an organization or company's websites and social media accounts to make your summer outings more budget-friendly. And, make sure to take advantage of your credit and debit card perks whenever possible.
 - **3. Explore the great outdoors** Nature of-

fers endless entertainment and it is often FREE.

For day trips, head to a nearby park for a hike and picnic. Longer excursions... plan a camping trip. If you don't have the right gear, try to borrow what you need. Pack your snacks, sunscreen and sense of adventure, and make memories in nature without breaking the bank.

- **4. Hit the road -** Pack the car and get ready for a good old-fashioned road trip where the journey there can be just as fun as the destination. Don't forget to load up all your device charging cords and stop along the way so you don't miss the hidden gems you discover on the way.
- **5. Plan a staycation -** Sometimes, the best summer memories are made right at home. A trip where you stick close to home with loved ones can't be beat for affordability and convenience.



With a little creativity, planning and a willingness to think outside the box, you can make the most of summer without putting a strain on your finances.

Create an INSTA-Worthy Outdoor LIVING Space

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Social media has changed the way people engage with content and seek inspiration. Thanks to ever-evolving technology, you have the ability to find new ideas instantly.

Need a new recipe? Find and follow a chef or home cook on TikTok or Instagram. In a reading rut? Explore reviewers who can share book recommendations for your next read. You can even discover new ways to transform your yard this spring on your social media feeds.

Are you ready to create an Insta-worthy outdoor space? Check out these three tips to inspire your yard renovation.

1. Return to timeless appeal - Almost 90% of Americans agree that a healthy lawn is the foundation to an attractive outdoor space. Flowers, healthy plants, and shrubs are also key elements to outdoor charm.

2. Talk to the pros when challenges arise

- While more Americans want beautiful, healthy outdoor spaces, many are most stumped by how to get rid of weeds, what plants to put where, and the proper lawn care schedule. If you find yourself overwhelmed, consult a trusted pro to take the guess work out of it.

- **3. Spend more time outdoors -** Longing for beautiful, maintained outdoor spaces, over half of Americans are willing to invest more time outdoors.
- Take stock of your yard. For two-story homes, trees and tall bushes are a good choice, while one-story homes keep plants trimmed and compact for a positive visual appeal.
- Imagine where you'd like to add outdoor furniture. Outdoor bed swings or teak wood outdoor sectionals can create a refreshing and relaxing feel.
- Assess your lawn. Neglecting lawn maintenance can lead to unsightly issues, including brown patches, rampant weeds and insect damage.





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