



# A PRESCRIPTION THAT BENEFITS YOUR PATIENTS AND YOUR FACILITY.

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## The Facts about Carpet Cleaning and Maintenance for Healthcare Administrators and Facility Managers

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**In healthcare settings, you need to keep your focus on patients and your eye on the budget. Carpet is not only affordable to install, but properly cleaned and maintained, it also delivers savings years into the future. Better yet, it enhances the overall safety of your healthcare environment.**

### What You Should Know

- Carpet is cost effective. In fact, it can be 65 percent less expensive to maintain than hard surface flooring. While buying and installing hard surface flooring appears less expensive than carpet in the short run, the true cost of labor, supplies, and equipment over an average 22-year lifespan makes carpet a more cost-effective choice.<sup>1</sup>
- Hard surface floors require 2 1/2 times more cleaning than carpet annually, increasing maintenance time and impacting limited human resources. Hard surface cleaning supplies are also nearly seven times more expensive than carpet cleaning supplies.<sup>2</sup>
- To preserve the life of your carpet, clean it with supplies that have the CRI Seal of Approval. CRI created the Seal of Approval program to help customers identify carpet cleaning products that clean effectively without harming the carpet. For a list of these products, click on Seal of Approval at [carpet-rug.org](http://carpet-rug.org).
- The CRI Seal of Approval is especially important because independent testing shows that many cleaning detergents and spot removers clean no better than water. Worse, they can leave a sticky residue that attracts soil at a faster rate. There are also big differences in the soil removal capability among vacuums and extractors.
- Vacuuming is the single most effective means of keeping carpet clean; 90 to 95% of all dry soil by weight can be removed from carpet by following a routine schedule. Choose vacuums that bear the CRI Seal of Approval for assurance of effective soil removal and good air quality.
- Carpet also offers health benefits, helping to cushion the impact of falls and lessen the chance of injury. A study of 225 hospital slip and fall incidents with older patients found that 17% sustained injury when falling on carpet, compared to 50% when falling on hard surfaces.<sup>3</sup>



Visit [carpet-rug.org](http://carpet-rug.org) and [criblog.org](http://criblog.org) to learn more.



<sup>1</sup> Bishop J. & Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification. (2002). "A Life-Cycle Cost Analysis for Floor Coverings in School Facilities."

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Healy, F. (1994). "Does Flooring Type Affect Risk of Injury in Older Patient?" Nursing Times, July, pp.40-41. London: Tower Publishing Services LTD.