For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

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0804 Safety Guidance
110/230V v:012017

SOUTH WEST HIRE & SALES

Using the Carpet Cleaner

1. Wear protective equipment including ear defenders and gloves.
2. Do not spray water over electrical equipment. This could cause a short circuit, fire and a fatal shock.
3. Do not spray water at anyone – it could be dangerous.
4. Dry hands, switch off and unplug before emptying waste or leaving the machine unattended.
5. Keep everyone, especially young children and animals off the carpet that has just been cleaned until it is dry. It could harm them.
6. When finished work, empty the cleaning solution and refill with clean water. Operate the machine in a safe place to flush the cleaning solution out of the equipment.
7. Keep the cable clear of any sharp edges in your work area.
8. If the cable appears to be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the mains before inspecting it. If the cable attached to the carpet cleaner is damaged, stop using the equipment. Contact the Hire Company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
9. Take care not to accidentally pull the plug from the socket.
10. Switch off and remove the plug from the socket before leaving the machine unattended.
11. Switch off and remove the plug, allow the equipment to cool down before emptying.
12. If the equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference

Carpet Cleaner without Heater

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Carpet Cleaner

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Electricity can be hazardous and must always be used with great care.
3. Electricity and water make a very dangerous combination. Keep electrical equipment away from rain and water.
4. The carpet cleaner is designed to clean carpets and upholstery using the appropriate attachments and cleaning solutions.
5. The action of the carpet cleaner can cause injury or damage or both if the equipment is not used in a careful and controlled manner.
6. If you have not used a carpet cleaner before, familiarise yourself with the equipment on some scrap carpet before starting on the main task.
7. The following items of personal protective equipment is the minimum that must be worn when using this equipment: Ear muffs / plugs giving protection at the ear for levels up to 85 dB(A); waterproof gloves; rcd if using 230 volt (mains) supply.
8. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. The carpet cleaner is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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v:012017

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use the carpet cleaner where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Ensure the area is clear and safe and no one is close by who could cause distraction.
3. Protect other people from the noise. Warn others to keep away. Put up warning signs.
4. Ventilate the area by opening windows and doors before commencing work.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 85 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum if the cleaner is going to be used continuously.
3. Always wear waterproof glove to keep hands dry while working.
4. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

CARPET CLEANER

1. Check the equipment, cables, plugs and all equipment. Do not use anything found damaged contact the hire company.
2. Check that the plug on the machine matches the supply. Do not try to force connections or improvise them.
3. Equipment with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted is designed to run off special 110v supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if the equipment is needed to be powered from a normal mains 230v supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, take care not to injure yourself when moving it about – it may be heavier than you think. Equipment designed to run directly from 230v mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted or a blue industrial plug.
4. If using a 110volt transformer remember it will get hot in use. If left standing on the carpet it may 'iron' a permanent flat patch where it was stood.
5. Before starting, ensure all hose connections are tight.
6. Always check the waste tank is empty before filling the clean water tank. Always use hot water.
7. Do not use hot water hotter than recommended by the hire company or marked on the cleaning solution container. It will not make the carpet any cleaner but it may shrink or damage it.
8. Do not use the carpet cleaner to vacuum flammable, corrosive or toxic wastes such as petrol or weedkiller.
9. Do not touch electrical switches or plugs unless hands are dry.
10. Check on how the on / off switch operates. Before switching on the carpet cleaner, know how to stop it.

CLEANING SOLUTION

1. If using chemicals or detergents, follow the instructions supplied with them. Use only the recommended detergent.
2. Check the detergent will not make the colours run in the carpet. Wear gloves and dip a piece of clean white cloth into the solution and rub it vigorously over a hidden piece of carpet. If the colour comes onto the cloth, do not continue, contact the hire company.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The equipment will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v. 110v heater will have a yellow industrial plug fitted. 230v heaters will have either a normal square plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug. Read the instructions below for your heater.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If you are using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230v socket. Do not use any extensions cables.
2. If you need to use an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). You must only use an extension cable between the transformer and the heater.
3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("rcd") plugged directly in to the 230 volt socket. Plug your heater into the rcd. This will help to protect you against electric shock if the cable or heater gets damaged.
2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the rcd is working each time you use it. Reset the rcd according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If you need an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty one, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd.
4. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

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