

BORDER CUTS, SPLITS OR TEARS

Cause	Cure
Gaps between the Dryer and housing	Cure for this is to use proper gaskets supplied by equipment manufacturer and to insure basket supports are properly adjusted.
Customer abuse	Customers sometime cut mats to make them fit around equipment or furniture. Also, mats occasionally are cut by electric doors or other customer equipment. Service people should be made aware of such problems so they can be eliminated.
Sharp edges in processing equipment	These are usually found in dryers and can best be located by feel
Excessive extractor pressure or speed	High speed centrifugal extractor can stretch mats to the point of bursting. Maximum centrifugal extractor pressure should not exceed 250 G's. Ram Extractors are not recommended for mats
Product design	Some manufacturers choose not to reinforce their mat borders. This enables mats to tear or split more easily

BURNED OR MELTED CARPET

Cause	Cure
Excessive dryer temperatures	Nylon melts at approximately 500F. If mats have been exposed to these temperatures, the carpet surface will feel rough and coarse. It may also be possible to see burn marks caused by dryer ribs or basket perforations. Inspect dryers to insure they are properly maintained. For more information, refer to Tech Tip #111 Mat Drying.
Cigarette burns	These should be self-evident. Service department should be advised so the damage can be eliminated. Avoid using solid color mats in areas where this problem exists.
Chemical burns, welding burns	Again, damage of this nature should be self-evident.

CHEWING GUM OR TAR ON CARPET SURFACE

Cure

It is possible to remove most gum and/or tar by using De-Solve-It, a citrus based solvent available from Mountville Mills.
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- ** Please note: Follow directions on bottle. Wash mats immediately after using De-Solve-It to prevent damage to rubber backing.

DELAMINATIONS – CARPET SEPARATES FROM RUBBER

Cause/Cure

This problem is rarely encountered. It is generally due to a manufacturing defect. There is no cure other than replacement by the manufacturer.

DINGY AND DULL MATS

Cause	Cure
Poor cleaning during washing. This can be caused by too low wash temperatures, too much or too little detergent or inadequate rinsing.	Refer to washing instructions for recommended wash formula

DYE CROSS STAINING

Cause	Cure
This problem is usually seen on light colored mats that have been washed with dark colored mats. High wash temperatures and/or high pH chemicals usually cause this problem.	Refer to washing instructions for recommended wash formula.

COLOR LOSS

Cause	Cure
High wash temperatures, high pH detergents	Refer to washing instructions for recommended wash formula

FLOOR BENEATH MATS TURNS YELLOW OR BROWN

Cause	Cure
Yellowing is normally attributed to moisture. The moisture usually is already present in the floor when mats are placed on the floor. Because the mats prevent the moisture's evaporation, the moisture becomes trapped in the floor surface, causing discoloration.	On hard surface floors, use of Carpet Cleated mats will reduce trapped moisture. On carpet, this problem is caused by placing mats on wet carpet. Again, the mats prevent the moisture from evaporating which causes severe yellowing or browning of the carpet color. Discolored carpet of this nature is very difficult or impossible to clean.

CAUTION: Never place mats on damp or wet carpet.

FADED PROPERTY MARKS

Cause/Cure
As mats get older, it is normal for property marks to fade. This is more commonly seen on labels placed on borders or corners of mats. The fading is caused by the abrasion of mats in the washing and drying Process.

LINT FROM OTHER MATS ON CARPET AND ON CLEATED BACKING

Cause	Cure
This problem is caused by poor tuft lock between carpet and rubber backing.	Mountville Mills mats are made with a special polyester substrate to prevent this problem. However, all mat producers do not use this product. Once mats of this nature are in your system, there is little that can be done to prevent the fiber loss. The lint can be removed from mats by drying mats for 5-10 minutes.

POOR OVERDYE RESULTS

Cause	Cure
Not using enough dye kits for amount of mats being dyed	Use 1 - 200 lb. dye kit per 200 lbs. of mats.
Temperatures in the steam up portion of the procedure are too low	Insure that 95° C is reached and then maintained for a minimum of 15 minutes.
Leaky dump valves allow dye bath to leak out	As water refills the washer, the dye bath is diluted and the bath temperature is reduced. Insure that dump valves seal properly before beginning over-dye process.
Water levels are too high in dye formula	High water levels dilute the acid used in the dye kit. Insure that recommended water levels are used. Refer to Tech Tip # 201 for further information.

ODORS IN MATS AFTER WASHING

Cause	Cure
Odors result from mats not being properly cleaned	This problem can be made worse by not drying mats. Refer to washing instructions for recommended wash formula

OZONE DAMAGE

Cause	Cure
Ozone is a naturally occurring ground level gas. Rubber that is exposed to ozone over time can cause it to become weakened and damaged. Mats experiencing ozone damage exhibit cracking on the rubber side of the mat similar to a spider web.	Mats that are stored over significant amounts of time should be rolled with the carpet out. This will decrease the likelihood of ozone damage.

RIPPLED OR DISTORTED MATS

Cause	Cure
High wash or drying temperatures	High temperature in the wash or over-drying mats can cause the carpet to shrink, leading to distorted or rippled edging. The rubber will not support the shrinkage.
Excessive extraction pressure	Centrifugal extraction with G forces above 250 G's can stretch, ripple and otherwise damage mats. Consult with Mountville Mills or your equipment supplier to insure proper extraction pressures are used.
Stretching of mats, particularly runners, when removing them from washers and dryers.	Instruct operators not to pull on borders of mats when unloading tangled mats.
Exposure to strong solvents and petrochemicals can cause rubber. This swelling can cause ripples in the borders of mats to swell	
Allowing mats to cool without laying them flat	When mats cool in a wrinkled or folded state, mats retain the "heat set" this causes. Heating affected mats to normal drying temperature usually cures this problem.

SAND BUILD UP IN CARPET SURFACE

Cause	Cure
This problem is the result of not drying mats, damp mats retain sand	A short 5 - 10 minute drying cycle will eliminate this problem.

SPOT COLOR LOSS

Cause	Cure
Exposure to bleach	This problem can be difficult to diagnose as the color loss caused by the bleach does not necessarily occur before mats are picked up. It occurs when the mats are washed. Service people should be conscious of bleach odors in mats, particularly in food handling establishments where bleach is used as a disinfectant.

STREAK COLOR LOSS

Cause	Cure
Streak color loss is usually caused by a defect in tufting or yarn production	Consult with your mat supplier to remedy this problem.

SPOT SWELLING ON CARPET AND RUBBER

Cause
Exposure to solvents and petrochemicals - Common examples are gasoline, hydraulic or transmission fluid

STAINED MATS

Cure
Certain stains are difficult to remove using normal wash procedures. If heavy soil wash formulas do not produce desired results, treat stains with De-Solve-It.

** Please note: Follow directions on bottle. Wash mats immediately after using De-Solve-It to prevent damage to rubber backing. Use of De-Solve-It should be an action of last resort as continued exposure to any solvent will damage the rubber backing.

WET FLOORS BENEATH MATS

Cause	Cure
This problem can be caused by floors beneath mats sweating.	Use of mats with Carpet Cleat backing will usually reduce or eliminate the problem.

Caution: Mats should not be placed on wet floors

YELLOWING OR BROWNING OF LIGHT BLUE AND SILVER COLORED MATS

Cause	Cure
This problem seems to vary depending on local water conditions. Some customers have no problems, while others experience significant difficulties.	The use of chemicals such as sodium percarbonate or hydrogen peroxide minimizes this problem.