

# armadillo

ARMADILLO & CO.

## *Care & Maintenance Guide*

### Care Instructions

To ensure the longevity of your Armadillo & Co rug, please follow these few simple rules:

- Vacuum your rug regularly as shedding of loose fibers will occur with a new rug. We do not recommend using rotating or brush head vacuum cleaners on our rugs.
- Promptly clean spills by blotting with a clean, undyed cloth
- Do not dry clean or use harsh chemicals that could damage or fade your rug
- Never fold your rug for storage or keep in an airtight bag
- Avoid direct or continuous exposure to sunlight and rotate your rug to promote even wear
- Professional cleaning is recommended on occasion to ensure the long life of your rug

Please refer to individual product specification sheets for more information and further care & maintenance instructions.

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### Treating Spills

As a rough guide, please refer to the below. Alternatively, to treat a specific stain, please refer to the table on page 3.

1. Carefully scrape up as much of the spill as possible with a spoon or dustpan, and blot any liquid residue with kitchen paper towel or other colorfast absorbent material. Do not rub.
2. Take a clean piece of the absorbent material and fold it into a thick wad. Cover the spill with this and add a weight (heavy book or other flat object) on top to help draw the liquid upward. Leave it for ten minutes.
3. If the spill has left a stain, decide if it is water-based or oil-based and treat it as below.
  - Water-based spills include beer, wine (red or white), soft drink, cordial, fruit juice, tea, coffee and urine. They are treated with lukewarm water.
  - Oil-based spills contain some type of oil, fat or greasy substance and include ice cream, gravy, mayonnaise, cream, make up and lotions. They are treated with detergent in lukewarm water. As our rugs are crafted from natural fibers, we recommend only using a WoolSafe Approved detergent. Look for the WoolSafe logo when selecting a cleaning product for use on your Armadillo & Co rugs.
4. For both types of spills, the process is the same: Blot – Dilute – Blot.

#### **Water-Based Spills**

Blot the spill as described previously. If some stain remains, dilute it with water. Blot this using absorbent material. Repeat this step until no more stain can be removed.

#### **Oil-Based Spills**

Blot the spill as described previously. If some stain remains, dilute it with the detergent solution. Blot this using absorbent material. Now dilute the stain with clean water and blot again. Repeat these steps until no more stain can be removed.

5. For both types of spills, finish with a final treatment:

In a small trigger spray bottle, mix 1 part of white vinegar and about 5 to 10 parts of clean water. Spray this onto the affected area. Cover it with a thick wad of absorbent material and add a weight (heavy book or flat object) on top. Leave it for 24 hours before removing the weight and wad and allowing the rug to dry completely.

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### **Important Note on Highly-Colored Spills**

Highly colored products, such as paint, nail polish, shoe polish, lipstick and glue, will not respond to these simple treatments. We advise you not to treat these spills yourself, as doing so may create a larger or permanent stain. These types of spills are best treated by a professional WoolSafe Approved Rug Cleaner. Find one near you at [www.wool-safe.org](http://www.wool-safe.org)

Red cordial and other colored drinks contain food coloring. Food coloring is an acid dye that is also used to dye wool and nylon fibers. Putting detergent on this will simply carry it into the fibers of your rug faster and set the stain. If after treating with water the dye stains persist, contact a professional WoolSafe Approved Rug Cleaner.

### **Treating Gradual Build-Up of Dirt**

Even with regular vacuuming and careful use, you may find dirt and debris will build up in your rug. It is possible to refresh your rug with gentle treatment by a professional rug cleaner.

### **Dry Soiling**

Sand, grit, dust, clothing fibers, skin flakes and hair are examples of dry particle soils. Most of these will be removed with regular vacuuming. For those that remain deep within the fibers, a thorough vacuuming should remove them and restore the original beauty of your rug. Do this two or three times each year on a dry day when the humidity is low. Natural fibers tend to absorb moisture from the air, which can bind dry soils to your rug.

Vacuum the front of the rug, then turn it over and vacuum the reverse. You may find some dirt loosens from the weave as the rug bends. Turn the rug over and vacuum the front again. To ensure even wear and minimize the natural fading that occurs from sunlight, rotate your rug end-to-end when repositioning.

### **Oil-Based Soiling**

A build-up of oily soils can result in your rug looking dull and gray, despite regular vacuuming. Pollution, cooking fumes, sweaty feet and road grime are examples of this soiling, which is resistant to cleaning with water alone. To clean this type of build-up, use a gentle WoolSafe Approved treatment, such as the Host Dry Carpet Cleaning Kit (available from Armadillo & Co), or contact a WoolSafe Approved Service Rug Cleaner.

### **Water-Soluble Soiling**

Some soils, such as mud, salt and sugary drinks, are water soluble and only need water to release the particles from the rug. To treat these, vacuum to remove any dry particles. Wet the stain with lukewarm water, then treat as for water based spills. Once dry, vacuum again.

### **Dye Stains & Other Color Changing Chemistry**

Some spills that are left untreated over time can affect the natural fibers of your rug. These include spills that contain natural and synthetic dyes (cordial and other colored drinks, red wine) and those that change the chemistry in the fiber (fruit juice, urine, bi-carb soda, bleach and other cleaning products). This chemistry-changing group can adversely affect the natural proteins (fatty acids) in wool and the cellulose (sugars and tannins) in natural fibers such as cotton, jute and other plant-based fibers.

For this reason, any treatment needs to be extremely gentle. Wet the stain with lukewarm water. Then treat as for water based spills, stopping at the final blotting stage. Do not finish with the vinegar treatment.

It is important not to use any other treatments, as these may cause physical damage or carry the stain deeper into the fiber.

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### Stain Treatment Methods:

Cross-reference the type of treatment with the specific stain in the table to the right:

1. Cold water.
2. One teaspoon of wool detergent with one teaspoon of white vinegar in one liter of warm water.
3. Clear household disinfectant.
4. Cavalier Bremworth Dry Stain Remover – please note that overuse of this product may fade your rug.
5. Chill with ice-cubes in a plastic bag, then pick or scrape off any solids.
6. ½ cup of white vinegar with ⅔ cup of water.
7. Warm water.
8. Nail polish remover (must not contain lanolin).
9. Surgical-grade alcohol.
10. Place absorbent paper or paper towel over wax and apply hot iron to paper. Wax will melt and be absorbed by the paper.
11. Vacuum clean.
12. Mineral turpentine.
13. Seek assistance from a professional rug or carpet cleaner.

### Please Note:

- For dry stains that cannot be removed with a mild detergent, we also recommend Host Dry Carpet Cleaner. This is not recommended for use on the Sierra. Please see our website to purchase.
- Use of hot water to clean your rug is strongly discouraged.
- Do not steam or dry-clean your rug, and avoid harsh chemicals.
- These rugs are not machine-washable.
- If the corner of your rug curls up, lightly spray both surfaces of the curled area with water, then roll it back on itself in the opposite direction and leave it for 10 minutes. Flatten it out and put a heavy weight on it for a few hours.
- Do not use rotating or brush head vacuum cleaners on any of our rugs.
- If you get mud on your rug, it is usually best to allow it to dry and gently brush it off.
- When in doubt, contact a professional rug or carpet cleaner, preferably one who is WoolSafe approved.

Stain Type	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Beer/Spirits	1	2	
Bleach	1	13	
Blood	1	2	
Butter	4	2	
Candle Wax	10	4	
Chewing Gum	5	4	
Chocolate	4	2	
Coffee	1	2	6
Coca Cola/Soft Drinks	1	2	
Cooking Oil	4	2	
Cream	2	4	
Egg	2	13	
Faeces	2	3	13
Floor Wax	4	2	
Fruit Juice	1	2	
Furniture Polish	4	2	
Gravy/Sauces	7	2	
Ink (Ballpoint)	9	2	
Ink (Felt Tip)	4	2	
Lipstick	4	2	
Milk	2	4	
Mustard	2		
Nail Polish	8	4	
Oil/Grease	4	2	
Paint (Oil)	4		
Paint (Acrylic)	1	2	
Rust	6	13	
Salad Dressing	2	4	
Shoe Polish	4	2	
Soot	11	4	
Tar	12	4	
Tea	1	2	6
Tomato Sauce	7	2	
Urine (Fresh)	1	2	3
Urine (Old)	13		
Vomit	2	3	6
Wine	1	2	6

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### Rug Care

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Our rugs are infused with a rich history of ancient craftsmanship. To preserve their beauty and prolong their life, follow these suggestions for rug care:

- Rotate rugs from end to end or place them in different parts of the house to share the wear.
- Direct sunlight and heat sources, such as gas heaters and fireplaces, can cause the natural fibers to dry out and fade. Position your rug away from both.
- Reduce bacteria build-up with sunlight and kill any moth eggs naturally. Every few months, turn your rug over and place it in the sun for an hour. Vacuum the back of your rug before repositioning.
- Keep rugs dry and out of dark places, such as tucked tightly under lounge suites or furniture. Some insect larvae eat proteins such as wool and adult moths, in particular, will lay their eggs in dark, damp and warm spaces.
- Clean hard floors regularly with microfiber mops and water only (no detergents), or use a steam mop if appropriate. Detergent and soap residues can become sticky and collect other dirt, which is then walked onto your rug. By keeping your hard floors clean, your rug will stay cleaner for longer.
- Move rugs a few centimeters every month to soften any fading on carpet or timber floors underneath. When the rugs are eventually moved from the room, the fading on the floor will be graduated and less noticeable.

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### Rug Protection Treatment

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An optional rug protection treatment is available for your rug before you take it home. This will help to extend its life and provide protection against stains, mould, mildew and sun fade.

MicroSeal is an environmentally friendly treatment that can be used on all types of natural and synthetic fibers. Independently laboratory tested, it is a WoolSafe Approved textile sealant and will not change the color or texture of the rug. The treatment lasts up to 10 professional cleans before it needs to be reapplied.

Non-toxic, non-allergenic and biodegradable, MicroSeal has no lasting smell and does not give off VOCs. The treatment is ideal for rugs in residential or light commercial settings.

Find an authorized applicator, obtain a quote or make a booking:

<https://www.microsealsocal.com/>

+1 (877) 237-9353

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### **Special Notes for Indoor Outdoor – Recycled PET**

1. To remove semi-solid stains, gently scrape up with a spoon or spatula. Do not use a knife or other utensil with sharp edges because it could damage the rug. Blot liquid stains with a white colored absorbent cloth or paper towels. White materials are recommended because certain dyes could bleed and make the stain worse.
2. For large stains, put a towel down and stand on it to remove as much liquid as you can before applying any stain treatment.
3. Blot the stain with warm or tepid water (never rub or scrub) and repeat until no more stain transfers to the cloth. If the stained area is large, we advise taking the rug outside and hosing it down. Where water is not sufficient to clean the rug, we advise using carpet or upholstery approved detergent with warm or tepid water.
4. If using detergent, rinse the cleaned area thoroughly to ensure no residue is left in the rug.
5. Blot treated areas with a white-colored cloth or paper towel to dry excess water away. Allow the rug to dry completely either outside in summer, or hung to air dry inside.

When in doubt, contact a Cleaning Professional.

Please note:

- Although the rugs look and feel like wool, they have exceptional durability and stain resistance; cleaning is just a quick hose down.
- If rug is exposed to chlorinated or salt water use plenty of fresh water to rinse.
- Ensure your rug is completely dry before placing furniture.
- These rugs are not machine-washable.
- Do not dry clean or use harsh chemicals that could damage or fade your rug.
- If the corner of your rug curls up, lightly spray both surfaces of the curled area with water, then roll it back on itself in the opposite direction and leave it for 10 minutes. Flatten it out and put a heavy weight on it for a few hours.
- If the rug remains in an uncovered area outdoors and is subject to rain or heavy dew, it should be allowed to dry front and back.
- Dampness can cause some fiber breakdown over time.
- Vacuum your rug regularly to prevent build up of dirt and pollen. If left on the rug, this can encourage mould growth.
- For extended periods of non-use, keep the rolled, dry rug in a covered, shaded area to protect against unnecessary fading.