CARPET CARE KEY TERMS

volume two

Colloidal silica/ alumina

- Dry soil retardant
- Removed with vacuuming

CARPET PROTECTORS

Enhance carpet performance, especially against soils and stains

Silicone

- Wet stain repellent
- Removed with dry solvent

Fluorochemical

- Dry soil retardant
- Oily stain repellent
- Repels some wet stains
- Removed with wear
- Removed with dry solvents

SOIL RETARDANT:

Designed to fill cracks, crevices, and irregularities on fiber surface to prevent embedding of soil and ease vacuum removal of soil.

STAIN REPELLENT:

Repels water-based staining materials and can be suspended in wet or dry solutions.

Acid dye blocker

- Dry soil retardant
- Acid dye repellent
- Oily stain repellent
- Removed with wear
- Removed with highalkaline products, cationic-charged products, and many disinfectants

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHEMICALS

BUZZWORDS

PRECONDITIONER: A (usually) built detergent applied prior to cleaning and allowed dwell time for better soil removal

BUILDER: An additive used to enhance cleaning efficiency of detergent, supply alkalinity, prevent soils from redepositing during cleaning, and emulsifying oil/grease

BUFFER: An additive used to neutralize acids and bases in a solution to maintain the original pH when an acid or alkali is added

WETTING AGENT: An additive used to reduce water's surface tension to displace air in fabric for better penetration

UNBUILT DETERGENT: A simple detergent with few additives

DEFOAMER: An additive used to suppress foam formation during cleaning

AGENT: An ingredient (cleaning agent) that causes activity (cleaning) to happen

DETERGENT: A cleaning agent comprised of all components like surfactants, emulsifiers, builders, etc.

SURFACTANT: Short for "surface active agent;" a detergent that reduces the surface tension of liquid (i.e., water) to allow an even spread of cleaning solution for better cleaning

RINSE DETERGENT: A cleaning agent that causes activity (cleaning) to happen, with properties similar to a preconditioner

SOLVENT: Any liquid medium that dissolves other substances into its own state

DRY SOLVENT: A non-water liquid solution for dissolving oily soils

EMULSIFICATION: Process of creating an emulsion, one liquid (i.e. dry) into another (i.e. wet)

SOLUTION: A mixture of two or more substances, which can separate when dry

SOLUBLE: A substance that can be dissolved into another substance

INSOLUBLE: A substance that will not dissolve in any liquid medium