



Standard Terminology Relating to Floor Coverings and Textile Upholstered Furniture¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard is a compilation of all terminology developed by Subcommittee D13.62 on Labeling and related to refurbishing or care of floor coverings and textile upholstered furniture, excluding leather. These items cannot be refurbished by the laundering and dry cleaning methods used for apparel and other domestic textile products.

1.2 This document defines terms for the care of textile floor coverings and textile upholstered furniture. The exact care instructions and sequence of procedures are to be determined by the manufacturer.

1.3 The recommended terminology covers common meanings used by both textile technologists and consumers.

1.4 This terminology is not applicable to unattached fabrics, such as slipcovers, used for covering furniture.

1.5 When care labels are provided, a standardized terminology in a logical sequence facilitates the maximum disclosure of essential information in small label space and assists understanding of recommended care practices by the consumer.

1.6 The use of either a permanent or a nonattached care instruction should not preclude the use of the alternative as an additional source of information to the consumer.

1.7 The term “only” in any label term limits the procedure to the stated instruction.

1.8 This terminology is unique to the care of textile floor coverings and upholstered furniture. Meanings of the same terms outside the industry can be found in other compilations or dictionaries of general usage.

1.9 In addition to being a specialized dictionary, Terminology D5253 is also useful for managing the subcommittee’s terminology.

1.10 Terms listed are under the jurisdiction of SC D13.62.

1.11 For definitions of refurbishing or care terms for apparel, textile, home furnishing, and leather products cleaned by laundering or dry cleaning methods, see Terminology [D3136](#).

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D13](#) on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D13.62](#) on Labeling.

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1.12 For definitions of other textile terms, see Terminology [D123](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D3136 Terminology Relating to Care Labeling for Apparel, Textile, Home Furnishing, and Leather Products](#)

[D3938 Guide for Determining or Confirming Care Instructions for Apparel and Other Textile Products](#)

[D5489 Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products](#)

[D6322 Guide to International Test Methods Associated with Textile Care Procedures](#)

[D6719 Guide for Test Methods and Practices for Evaluating Pile Yarn Floor Covering](#)

[D6859 Test Method for Pile Thickness of Finished Level Pile Yarn Floor Coverings](#)

[D6962 Practice for Operation of a Roller Chair Tester for Pile Yarn Floor Coverings](#)

[D7241 Test Method for Pile Thickness of Finished Multi-level Pile Yarn Floor Covering](#)

[D7267 Test Method for Edge Ravel Resistance of Finished Loop Pile, Pile Yarn Floor Covering](#)

[D7330 Test Method for Assessment of Surface Appearance Change in Pile Floor Coverings Using Standard Reference Scales](#)

[D7570 Test Method for Evaluation of Dimensional Stability of Pile Yarn Floor Covering](#)

2.2 *Other Document*:

[16 CFR, Part 423, As Amended Effective September 1, 2000 Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, and Certain Piece Goods](#)³

3. Terminology

absorbent compound, *n*—*in textile cleaning*, sponge-like particles which, when saturated with water or dry solvent

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401.

and detergent and brushed into the textile, remove soil from the textile. See **powder cleaner**.

DISCUSSION—Naturally absorbent granules such as fullers earth and wood flour or synthetic granules are commonly used.

absorbent pad, *n*—*for cleaning textile floor coverings*, a damp textile material (fabric, felt, sponge, or mop) used to agitate and wipe the pile and, in the process, absorb soil.

bonnet, *n*—*in cleaning pile floor coverings*, an absorbent pad which can be mounted under a rotary shampoo machine.

brush, *n*—a hand-held cleaning tool consisting of a base into which bristles are inserted.

DISCUSSION—Bristles may vary in material, length, density of coverage, stiffness, and type to suit various types of textiles.

brush, *v*—*in refurbishing textiles*, (1) to use a brush to remove surface particulate soils, (2) work a cleaning solution or spot cleaning agent into carpet pile or upholstery fabric, or (3) restore the appearance of pile fabrics.

carpet shampoo, *n*—See **shampoo**.

carpet sweep, *v*—remove loose soil particles and lint from the textile floor covering surface using a carpet sweeper.

chemical wash, *n*—*in rug cleaning*, a specialized professional process used on oriental rugs.

cylindrical wet-scrub extraction, *n*—a carpet cleaning method in which (1) a cleaning agent is sprayed onto the carpet, and (2) soil and cleaning agents are removed by a machine which feeds water into two counter-rotating brushes.

dry, *v*—*in in-plant textile floor covering cleaning*, suspend textile floor covering in a heated room until dry.

dry cleaning, *n*—*in textile floor covering cleaning*, a deprecated term. See the preferred term, **dry extraction cleaning**.

dry extraction clean, *v*—*in cleaning upholstered furniture and textile floor coverings*, brush an absorbent compound into the fabric, allow to dry, and remove by suction, following manufacturer's instructions.

DISCUSSION—Sponge-like particles absorb the soil from the yarns. The soil-laden particles are removed by suction from the carpet. (Syn. *powder cleaning*.)

dry foam extraction cleaning, *n*—a process by which a highly aerated, low moisture content shampoo is brushed through the textile floor covering pile or applied to the surface of upholstery.

DISCUSSION—The foam holds the soil in suspension and is simultaneously removed by a cylindrical brush machine incorporating a built-in suction recovery system or hand-held wet sponges.

dry solvent, *n*—any organic solvent used to dissolve another material. See **solvent**.

extraction cleaning, *n*—a general term for a number of refurbishing methods in which the cleaning agent is delivered onto the textile product, agitated, and simultaneously removed by suction.

extraction cleaning, dry foam, *n*—See **dry foam extraction cleaning**.

extraction cleaning, hot water, *n*—See **hot water extraction cleaning**.

extraction cleaning, rotary, *n*—See **rotary extraction cleaning**.

extraction cleaning, steam, *n*—a deprecated term since no steam is used. See the preferred term, **hot water extraction cleaning**.

foam, *n*—*in cleaning textiles*, a frothy mass of fine bubbles generated by whipping or agitating a shampoo.

DISCUSSION—A rotary brush shampooing machine normally produces a foam as the brushes rotate over the carpet pile. Cleaning agents which dispense a foam from aerosol cans can be purchased.

foam clean, *v*—use a prepared foam to clean.

foam cleaning, *n*—a process in which a prepared foam is applied to a textile product, scrubbed in, allowed to dry, and the encapsulated soil is removed by suction.

hot water extraction cleaning, *n*—a process in which a heated solution of detergent is sprayed into the textile material and immediately removed by a wet suction nozzle behind the spray-head.

in-plant cleaning, *n*—*for textile floor coverings*, cleaning process performed in a facility away from the location where the product is used.

on-location cleaning, *n*—*for textile floor coverings and upholstered furniture*, a cleaning process performed in the location where a product is used.

“P”—a letter code. See **upholstery cleaning instructions**.

pad clean, *v*—clean using an absorbent pad.

pile, *v*—a deprecated term. See the preferred term, **pile lift**.

pile lift, *v*—raise the pile on a textile floor covering.

DISCUSSION—The pile of textile floor coverings is raised to an erect position to loosen embedded soil so that it can be more readily removed. Pile may be lifted by a vacuum cleaner having rotating brushes, by a manually manipulated toothed tool, or by a powered pile lifter.

pile lofting, *n*—See the preferred term, **pile lift**.

powder cleaner, *n*—a cleaning agent in which an absorbent compound is the principal ingredient. See **absorbent compound**.

powder cleaning, *n*—See the preferred term, **dry extraction cleaning**.

prespot, *n*—See **pretreat**.

pretreat, *v*—*in the cleaning of textile floor coverings and upholstered furniture*, apply a cleaning agent to spots, stains, and areas of high soil concentration prior to overall cleaning to maximize activation time and facilitate soil removal.

remove loose soil, *v*—subject textile to agitation, impact, and suction to remove dust and particulate soil.

rotary extraction cleaning, *n*—a cleaning procedure which uses a rotating brush machine or a series of rotating jets

through which shampoo is fed or sprayed into the carpet pile and simultaneously removed by suction.

rotary shampoo, *v*—clean using a brush or bonnet-type machine to impregnate the textile floor covering with a foam. After drying, vacuum loosened soil. See also **rotary extraction cleaning**.

DISCUSSION—Some machines extract the soiled solution immediately. If not extracted, after the carpet has dried it must be cleaned by suction to remove loosened soil.

routine maintenance, *n*—*in textile cleaning*, superficial daily or weekly cleaning to remove particulate soil and dust.

“S”—a letter code. See **upholstery cleaning instructions**.

shampoo, *n*—*in the cleaning of textile floor coverings and upholstered furniture*, a solution of detergent in water formulated for specialized cleaning tasks.

shampoo, *v*—*in the cleaning of textile floor coverings*, use a cleaning machine which applies detergent solution, brushes it in, rinses, and extracts as much water as possible.

solvent, *n*—any liquid used to dissolve another material.

DISCUSSION—Water is the most commonly used solvent, and in textile cleaning its use is commonly referred to as “cleaning on the wet side.” So-called “dry” cleaning solvents may be any of various combustible hydrocarbons or noncombustible chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as perchloroethylene, which are primarily used to dissolve oily, greasy, and waxy soils.

sour, *v*—*in refurbishing textiles*, to neutralize the alkalinity of a material after cleaning by using a weak acid such as acetic acid or an acid-forming salt.

spot clean, *v*—*in the cleaning of textile floor coverings and upholstered furniture*, remove localized spots and stains by treating them with cleaning agents and mechanical actions specific to the fiber, fabric, and product type and the foreign material present.

DISCUSSION—See manufacturer’s letter code for upholstery fabrics.

steam cleaning, *n*—a deprecated term since no steam is used. Use the preferred term, **hot water extraction cleaning**.

steam extraction cleaning, *n*—a deprecated term since no steam is used. Use the preferred term, **hot water extraction cleaning**.

upholstery cleaning instructions, *n*—any of the various letter codes supplied by the fabric manufacturer to provide acceptable cleaning methods.

DISCUSSION—The following codes are intended to be used with detailed instructions (see **Table 1**) included on the label:

“S”—clean with dry solvent cleaner only. Do not saturate. Do not use water or solutions containing water. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and dry cleaned.

“W”—clean only with water-based shampoo or foam upholstery cleaner. Do not saturate with the liquid. Do not use dry solvents to spot or clean. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and laundered.

TABLE 1 Care Terms for Refurbishing Textile Upholstered Furniture

Label Term	Instructions
<i>Routine Refurbishing</i>	
Brush	Use a hand-held brush to remove surface particulate soils. May also be used to restore the appearance of pile fabrics.
Spot clean	Remove localized spots and stains by treating them with cleaning agents and mechanical actions specific to the fiber, fabric, and product type and foreign material present. Note: See manufacturer’s letter code for upholstery fabrics. Note: See manufacturer’s letter code for upholstery fabrics.
Vacuum clean (D4852)	Remove loose particulate soil, lint, and embedded soil by suction using an electrically powered machine.
Wipe	Clean face-coated upholstery fabrics by removing surface soil with a sponge or cloth wetted with a mild detergent or soap solution or coated fabric cleaner formulated for the purpose. Do not use dry solvent cleaner.
<i>Overall Cleaning of Upholstery Fabrics</i>	
S	Clean with a dry solvent cleaner only. Do not saturate. Do not use water or solutions containing water. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and dry cleaned.
W	Clean only with water-based shampoo or foam upholstery cleaner. Do not saturate with the liquid. Do not use dry solvents to spot or clean. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and laundered.
WS	Clean with shampoo, foam, or dry cleaning solvents as desired. Do not saturate with any the liquid. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and laundered or dry cleaned.
X	Do not clean with either water cleaner or solvent-based cleaner. Use a vacuum cleaner or light brushing only.
Dry extraction clean	Brush an absorbent compound into the fabric, allow to dry, and remove by suction, following manufacturer’s instructions.
<i>Overall Cleaning of Coated Fabrics</i>	
Wipe	Clean face-coated upholstery fabrics by removing surface soil with a sponge or cloth wetted with a mild detergent, soap solution, or coated fabric cleaner formulated for the purpose. Do not use dry solvent cleaner.

“WS”—clean with shampoo, foam, or dry cleaning solvents as desired. Do not saturate with any the liquid. Pile fabrics may require brushing to restore appearance. Cushion covers should not be removed and laundered or dry cleaned.

“X”—do not clean with either water cleaner or solvent-based cleaner. Use a vacuum cleaner or light brush only.

“P”—professionally clean only, an alternate to the “S” dry cleaning term although not in customary usage.

vacuum clean, *vt*—to remove loose particulate soil, lint, and embedded soil by suction using an electrically powered machine.

“W”—a letter code. See **upholstery cleaning instructions**.

TABLE 2 Care Terms for Refurbishing Textile Floor Coverings

Label Term	Instructions
<i>Routine Refurbishing Procedures</i>	
Carpet sweep	Remove loose soil particles and lint from the textile floor covering surface using a carpet sweeper.
Vacuum clean	Remove loose particulate soil, lint, and embedded soil by suction using an electrically powered machine.
Spot clean	Remove localized spots and stains by treating them with cleaning agents and mechanical actions specific to the fiber, fabric, and product type and foreign material present.
Remove loose soil	Subject textile to agitation, impact, and suction to remove dust and particulate soil.
<i>In-Plant Cleaning</i>	
Pretreat	Apply a cleaning agent to spots, stains, and areas of high soil concentration prior to overall cleaning to maximize activation time and facilitate soil removal.
Spot clean	Remove localized spots and stains by treating them with cleaning agents and mechanical actions specific to the fiber, fabric, and product type and foreign material present.
Shampoo	Use a cleaning machine which applies detergent solution, brushes it in, rinses, and extracts as much water as possible.
Dry	Suspend in a heated room until dry.
<i>On-Location Overall Cleaning</i>	
Pile lift	Raise the pile on the textile. Textile floor covering pile is raised to an erect position to loosen embedded soil so that it can be more readily removed. Pile may be lifted by a vacuum cleaner having rotating brushes, by a manually manipulated toothed tool, or by a powered pile lifter.
Vacuum clean	Remove loose particulate soil, lint, and embedded soil by suction using an electrically powered machine.
Pretreat	Apply a cleaning agent to spots, stains, and areas of high soil concentration prior to overall cleaning to maximize activation time and facilitate soil removal.
Spot clean	Remove localized spots and stains by treating them with cleaning agents and mechanical actions specific to the fiber, fabric, and product type and foreign material present.
Rotary shampoo	Clean using a brush or bonnet-type machine to impregnate the textile floor covering with a foam. After drying, remove loosened soil with a vacuum cleaner.
Extraction clean ⁴	Clean using one of the wet extraction or dry foam extraction machines.
Pad clean	Clean using an absorbent pad.
Foam clean	Clean using a prepared foam.
Dry extraction clean	Brush an absorbent compound into the fabric, allow to dry, and remove by suction, following manufacturer's instructions.

wipe, v—*in upholstery cleaning*, clean face-coated upholstery fabrics by removing surface soil with a sponge or cloth wetted with a mild detergent, soap solution, or coated fabric cleaner formulated for the purpose. Do not use dry solvent cleaner.

“WS”—a letter code. See **upholstery cleaning instructions**.

“X”—a letter code. See **upholstery cleaning instructions**.

4. Keywords

4.1 care; floor covering; refurbishing; terminology; upholstered furniture

⁴ The complete label may be “dry foam extraction cleaning,” “hot water extraction cleaning,” “dry extraction cleaning,” or “rotary extraction cleaning.” Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. RATIONALE

X1.1 Work on developing standard definitions of terms relating to the care of textile floor coverings and furniture upholstery as an adjunct to Terminology **D3136** was started during the period when the Federal Trade Commission was developing amendments to the Care Labeling Rule, 16 CFR Part 423. During this period advanced information indicated home furnishings would have to carry Permanent Care Labels in addition to apparel which was already covered. An expansion of the ASTM recommended terms and practices appeared to be needed.

X1.2 When the new Rule was published on May 20, 1983, the section dealing with home furnishings had been deleted, so

Terminology **D3136**, with some modifications, was still adequate to meet the requirements of the FTC regulation.

X1.3 There is still a consumer need and desire for care instructions of textile floor coverings and upholstery. Therefore, this terminology has been prepared to recommend standard terminology and practices for the use by those sellers who have been voluntarily labeling their products or otherwise furnishing information to consumers.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

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