

AREA	pH	Source	Additional Action
Spot	Less than 3 with color loss	Strong Acid: toilet bowl cleaner, tile cleaner are likely, HCl or car battery acid, H ₂ SO ₄ or a rust stain spotter residue.	Neutralize with strong alkaline detergent to a pH of 6 to 8. On nylon, spot dyeing may be difficult if not impossible due to fiber degradation.
Overall	3 to 6	On new nylon & wool carpets, Acid dye block	Check Colorfastness at higher pH by soaking yarns in solutions
Spot	From 3 to 6.0 and sticky	Food Related	Try spotting with tannin spotter or enzymes. See the carpet cleaner's HANDBOOK by the Academy of Textiles and Flooring for specific pHs of specific foods.
Overall	4.0 to 5.5 & clean	Acid Rinse	None
Overall	6.0 to 6.7 & soiled	Typical pH for Soil	Typical pH for Soil indicating no recent cleaning.
Spot	0.3 to 1.0 less than surrounding carpet and smells like urine	Urine	Run other tests to confirm urine i.e. black light & moisture. Neutralize to a pH of 6 to 8. If there is color loss on nylon, spot dyeing may be difficult if not impossible.
Spots	Between 2 to 4 points lower than surrounding carpet with color loss	Metal cleaners that contain reducing agents.	Neutralize with alkaline oxygen bleach to a pH of 7 to 8, and then repair the color.
Overall	7.0 & clean	Neutral Rinse, some low moisture methods are buffered at pH 7.0	None
Overall	7.3 to 8.0	The carpet has been cleaned, likely with HWE with Stain Resist Detergent	Check the fluorochemical protection by gently placing baby oil on the yarns to see if they bead. Check the stain resistance by soaking the yarns in dye for three minutes and rinsing with tap water.
Overall	8.1 to 8.7	HWE with pH 10.0 Detergent	Recommend acid rinse in cleaning and checking the protectants.
Overall	8.8 to 9.2	HWE with High pH Detergent	Recommend acid rinse in cleaning. Look for bleeding.
Spot	9.5 & higher with possible color loss	Oven Cleaner or bleach. If there is a color loss on nylon or missing yarn on wool, the household bleach is the problem	Neutralize household bleach with a strong acid and/or sodium bisulfite to a pH between 6 & 7. For nylon, consider spot dyeing.

The chart shown above was reproduced from the September, 2004 issue of Cleanfax Magazine. The information contained in the chart is a collaboration of the LMCCA and JBS Consultants, Inc., Frisco, TX. The chart is provided for your convenience. Extech Instruments is a manufacturer of testing instrumentation, not a consultant in the carpet cleaning/restoration industry. Use of the information is at your own risk. Extech will not be held liable for any damages what-so-ever, including direct, indirect and consequential as a result of use of the information contained in the table.