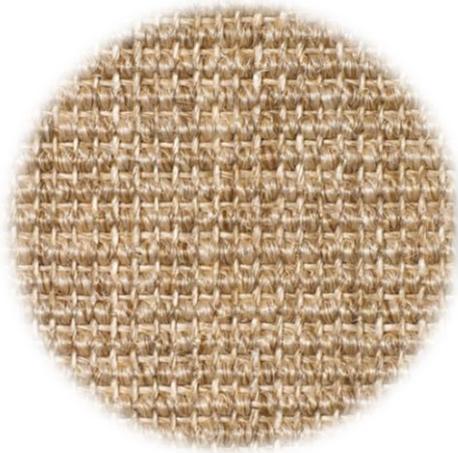


Cleaning Natural Fibre Floorcovering with HOST

First of all, we need to define what we mean by Natural Fibres and Floorcovering for these instructions.



Natural Fibres are those that are harvested and processed from either the **leaves (Sisal), stalks or bast (Jute, Seagrass) or fruit (Coir)** of plants.

Floor coverings are distinct from carpets in that they are either two dimensional or barely three dimensional in the case of the typical Sisal Boucle structure shown below.

Floorcoverings will not have the soft texture that many carpets have, and in the case of boucle, structures can feel quite harsh.

Sisal Boucle Blenheim
Courtesy - The Alternative Flooring Company

How to Clean Natural Fibres

Vacuum First -- vacuum thoroughly using a HOST Freestyle or Liberator using white brushes (M1020). Always test brushes in an inconspicuous location before cleaning. If any texture change occurs, immediately switch to a softer brush, either Brown/White (M1019) or Gold brushes (M1018). Be sure to vacuum in every direction, north, south, east and west. However, if there is distinct hill valley structure ensure most of the vacuuming/brushing is in the direction shown. Otherwise damage can result.



Brush along raised loops



Damage caused by brushing across raised loops and incorrect (too harsh) brush selection

Use HOST Sponges -- this cleaner is highly effective for cleaning sisal. HOST sponges cleaner is a soft, natural product that is environmentally friendly, and contains all the necessary cleaning ingredients. The slightly dampened sponges remove soil and allergens without introducing any excess of water or potential humidity throughout the cleaning process. (It is best to avoid the use of any liquids when cleaning sisal and coir.)

Less is More -- Use less HOST sponges than normal. You can apply HOST sponges several times. Watch as HOST sponges change colour as they absorb soil. Sprinkle HOST sponges



Host Residue

over the floor covering's surface, don't apply as a lump. HOST sponges when damp are often the same colour as Natural Fibre Flooring. As they dry out, they become lighter and usually this colour is confused with bleaching. This problem is easily solved. Brush to dislodge the HOST residue and vacuum away.

Vacuum and Use! -- vacuum again in every direction, removing the cleaner. The floor covering is ready to use. There is no need to wait until the HOST sponges are dry before vacuuming.

Importers and manufacturers of Natural Fibre Floorcoverings recommend the HOST cleaning process as the safe and effective cleaning method. However, it is still possible to alter the Natural Fibre Floorcovering's colour during cleaning. The colour change is usually very slight, but the carpet owner or facility manager should be made aware of this before beginning the cleaning process. If the customer has any concern or objections to this slight colour change, don't clean the floor covering. However, other methods of cleaning will probably cause much more evident colour changes and other damage, such as shrinkage.



Sisal Plant



Coir (Coconut Husk)



Jute



Seagrass

Natural Fibre Flooring Protector

Natural Fibre Floorcoverings are more absorbent than their traditional counterparts and will benefit greatly from Intec protection. This resinous co-polymer formula helps to keep floor coverings clean and looking good. Spots and spills are much more easily removed.

Intec dries in minutes and is extremely durable and gives immediate lasting protection even in the most demanding conditions. Intec has been designed to be environmentally friendly, is water based and it does not contain harmful solvents.