

The best way to clean carpet or upholstery after your pet has eliminated

To begin, understanding your pet's behavior and physiological capabilities is key.

Dogs and cats have a highly developed sense of smell, far more than humans do. They can detect odors that we can't. Their extraordinary sense of smell, along with behavioral programming can make managing pet stains and odors a huge problem.

There are two behaviors that are stimulated by pet odors which are left behind in a carpet. Both dogs and cats carry out *territorial marking* with urine. They are also creatures of habit and they tend to revisit spots they have used before. They can detect the very slightest aroma remaining in the carpet, which prompts them to urinate in the same area.

Most people think after diligently scrubbing the stain with typical cleaning chemicals that the carpet is clean because they no longer see or smell the soiled area. Shortly after, and more often than not, the dog or cat will return and urinate on or close to the same spot. Have you ever wondered why? Simply, ordinary cleaning products don't break down and destroy all the bacteria. Destruction of the bacteria is the only way to eliminate odors so that your pets can't smell where they've urinated before. Here's what you can do to insure the area is cleaned thoroughly.

- Soak up as much of the urine as you can with paper towels.
- Make sure the area is rinsed clean of any previous cleaning agents. Cold water works best.
- Use an enzymatic cleaner like [Nature's Miracle](#), rather than chemicals, vinegar or ammonia. Enzymatic cleaners are organic compounds containing microscopic enzymes which destroy bacteria that cause pet stain odors.
- Avoid using steam cleaners, as you will most likely cause the stain to set in permanently.
- If pet stains are a persistent problem, you'll need to use a professional carpet cleaning machine that can apply the enzyme cleaner; and then suction it out sufficiently to prevent moisture accumulations beneath the carpet. Follow the directions carefully on which ever Brand you choose to use. You can find these enzymatic cleaners in most retail pet stores like [Petco](#).
- Since some stains are barely noticeable you can use a [black light](#) to help you detect them. They are readily available for purchase on line for about \$15.



Woofs, Purrs & Twitters