

# Did You Know???

## How's Your IAQ IQ?

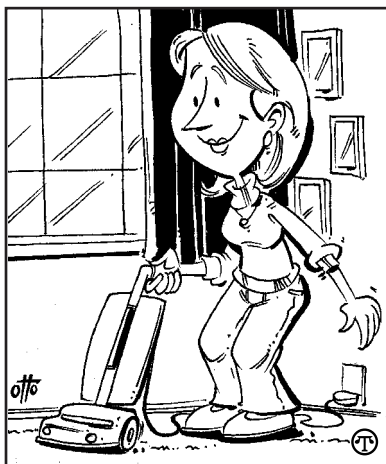
(NAPSA)—If you'd like to find out how much you know about the indoor air quality (IAQ) in your home, these facts may help. How important is this knowledge? When you consider that most Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors—at home and work—you can see how important IAQ really is.

One of the best ways to protect the indoor air quality in your home is to keep all indoor surfaces as clean as possible. Vacuuming away the dust and dirt that falls to the floor not only keeps your house cleaner, it provides air quality benefits by helping to control dust and dirt, keeping it out of the air and out of the breathing zone.

To keep your carpet and floors clean without spreading dust back into the air, it's important to use a vacuum cleaner that cleans effectively and minimizes generating dust from the filter. For this reason, it is important for consumers to be able to identify models that perform well in these tasks.

With this in mind the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) has initiated a voluntary Vacuum Cleaner Indoor Air Quality Testing Program that identifies vacuum cleaners that have been evaluated by an independent testing laboratory and have met the carpet industry standards for these three important elements: soil removal, dust containment and carpet appearance.

The CRI IAQ label assists consumers to identify vacuum cleaners that have demonstrated features



**Clean up with these tips: use a vacuum that has met the carpet industry standards and vacuum twice a week.**

that protect the carpet investment while minimizing adverse effects on indoor air quality.

### **Vacuuming Tips**

Remember, it's a good practice to vacuum the areas that receive the most traffic, such as hallways, stairs and exterior entryways in the home. Ideally, vacuum the entire carpeted area a minimum of twice a week. Removing loose soil while it remains on the surface is important so that it is not walked into the carpet pile. Removing embedded soil is more difficult and time consuming than removing surface soil.

Following the vacuum cleaner manufacturers' guidelines for good vacuuming habits will maintain both the beauty of your carpet and a better indoor air quality environment.

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**Note to Editors:** This article is one in a series of 6 to educate the public about the health and safety benefits of carpet and rugs in addition to the importance of maintaining proper care of them.