

# PETS & PEOPLE

## Protecting Your Carpet

(NAPSA)—The United States is home to some 68 million dog owners and 73 million cat owners, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

That's a lot of love—and a lot of carpet stains. Accidents on carpet require quick cleanup to remove bacteria and odor. The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) suggests:

**Extract the moisture.** Put an inch-thick layer of paper towels on the area and a color-fast, absorbent towel on top to absorb moisture. Leave it overnight.



**For stubborn odors and stains from animal accidents, consider hiring qualified professionals for deep extraction cleaning and specialty stain removal.**

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**Seal the floor underneath.** Treat under floors before installing carpet. Thoroughly clean, disinfect and seal concrete floors. With wood floors, cut out and replace wood rot. Disinfect any stained areas and apply wood sealer.

**Enlist a certified professional.** Without specialized chemicals and extraction equipment, pet owners may not be able to completely remove soiling from carpet.

To find an IICRC-certified firm, visit [www.certifiedcleaners.org](http://www.certifiedcleaners.org) or call (800) 835-4624.