

HOW TO CARRY OUT a deep clean

BY MURRAY MCDONALD

For most accommodation facilities, cleaning is carried out on a regular basis. However, what can be overlooked is providing that “deep clean”. There is a lot more to an efficient clean than wiping down surfaces, dusting and keeping areas looking tidy. A deep clean is required to ensure guests are in an environment that is hygienic and healthy.

The following are key factors to keep in mind in order to provide a deep clean.

MATTRESSES

Changing and washing bedding is a regular housekeeping responsibly. Yet, the mattress itself can often be overlooked. When a mattress is treated with a high temperature steam, it kills all bacteria, as well as kills or prevents bed bug infestation.

It's important that housekeepers ensure that the steam equipment they are using produces a “dry” steam vapour. The dry component of the steam will allow for mattresses to dry in minutes, not hours or days. It also prevents dampness, which can be a breeding ground for mould build up.

A typical dry steam vapour should produce around 5% moisture content.

BATHROOMS

It's common knowledge that a bathroom is a key area that requires regular cleaning. However, it's the way a bathroom is cleaned that prevents it from receiving a “deep clean”.

A bathroom should be cleaned using the correct “workflow”. A correct workflow simply means to clean in the right order or process. In a bathroom, cleaning should start from the door. The cleaning should then occur in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction, and follow a logic such as light switch to basin to shower to toilet. The toilet should always be left last.

Another important bathroom cleaning factor is to not overlook drains. Clogging of drains is a sign that a bathroom hasn't been given a deep clean. Using a steam plunger tool attached to a steam cleaning machine will instantly and effectively unclog drains, deodorise and sanitise.

REMOVE ALL PERMANENT OBJECTS

A key activity involved in providing a deep clean is to remove all objects that are normally fixed to the floor, but that can be moved. These include objects such as desks, chairs, cabinets and shelves.

Removing these objects will allow for greater access to areas that are not regularly cleaned. Although having objects on top of a floor's surface ultimately protects the floor from becoming stained, the edges and corners around the object still get dirt build up. Dust and grime can easily accumulate around these fixed objects, and sometimes removing the object is the only effective way to ensure the floor receives a thorough clean.

KNOW THE HIGH TRAFFIC PATHS

It's also important to look at high traffic areas such as corridors and waiting rooms. These are high traffic areas that regularly accumulate shoe prints and scuff marks.

Having matting in the appropriate areas will reduce in ground soils

and dirt from getting into the building and reduce the number of times the daily cleaning of these areas needs to occur.

High traffic areas also result in spots and stains that are difficult to remove, particularly when left for long periods of time. Liquid spills, such as teas, coffees and other drinks that fall onto carpet fabric should be pre sprayed to flush and remove the contaminate. Once the spots and spills are pre sprayed, then it should be extracted through a flush and rinse process using water and agitation to the pile of the carpet. A floorscrubber is a great way that this agitation can be done automatically, rather than manually. Ensure the floorscrubber you are using leaves the carpet dry. ■

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