

HOST® Makes the Grade in Independent Lab Test

Independent Test

An independent laboratory test, commissioned by a school, was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of three carpet cleaning methods. The grades are in and HOST aced the test, outperforming encapsulation and hot water extraction.

At the request of the Pasco County School System in New Port Richey, Florida, the test was conducted to determine the most effective carpet cleaning method under real-life, high-traffic conditions. Because there are few opportunities for cleaning during the school year, the school's carpets were generally dirty. School officials wanted to find a method that allowed for more frequent cleaning and, therefore, added to the carpet's durability.

Methodology

To conduct the test, samples of the carpet – Collins & Aikman Powerbond installed two years prior to the test – were removed from the school's hallways and sent to the manufacturer's lab. An unused piece of the carpet was also sent as a control.

Six samples were labeled and each was cleaned using one of the methods tested: HOST Dry Extraction Carpet Cleaning, encapsulation and hot water extraction. The cleaning methods in the test were applied in two ways, a normal maintenance cleaning procedure and a restoration cleaning procedure, according to manufacturer specifications. The cleaning procedures used are listed at the end of this article.

Evaluation was done visually by Collins & Aikman technical associates and by using a camera that took micrographs at 60X and 200X.

Results

Each of the samples was evaluated visually and microscopically in comparison to each other and to the control sample. They were then rated on a ten-point scale, with a score of 10 indicating the sample looks the same as the control and a score of 1 meaning the sample looks poor.

The samples cleaned with the HOST Dry Extraction System were the only samples that consistently received a score of 10. In fact, the sample cleaned with HOST using a restoration procedure averaged a perfect 10 and the maintenance cleaning sample averaged 9.8. That meant, in many cases, they looked just like the control sample which was new, never used carpet.

By comparison, encapsulation cleaning scored a 7 and 7.9 and hot water extraction received a 6.5 and 7.4 for maintenance and restoration cleaning, respectively.

Microscopic evaluations revealed that the samples cleaned with HOST were indeed thoroughly cleaned. Very little soil remained in the carpet of the HOST-cleaned samples, whereas the other samples showed a light to moderate amount of soil after cleaning.

Test Result Scores

| | |
|---|------------|
| HOST - Maintenance | 9.8 |
| HOST - Restoration | 10 |
| Encapsulation - Maintenance | 7.0 |
| Encapsulation - Restoration | 7.9 |
| Hot Water Extraction - Maintenance | 6.5 |
| Hot Water Extraction - Restoration | 7.4 |



*Encapsulation 60 X
 Particulate residue is visible.*



*HOST 60 X
 Fibers are smooth and clean.*



*Hot Water Extraction 200 X
 Particulate residues evident.*



*HOST 200 X
 No residue visible, clean fibers.*

Benefits Extend Beyond Effectiveness

As a result of this test, Pasco County Schools has begun using the HOST Dry Extraction Carpet Cleaning System exclusively in all of its buildings. Although HOST was clearly the most effective carpet cleaning system, the benefits to the school extend beyond effectiveness.

Because HOST is a dry cleaning system, there is no drying time necessary and the carpet can be used immediately following cleaning. The other methods required at least three hours of drying time (overnight drying for restoration cleaning), during which the carpet could not be walked upon. The HOST System is also easier to use, requiring just one machine and one operator.

Additionally, Collins & Aikman now recommends HOST for cleaning its Powerbond carpet.

Normal Maintenance Cleaning Test Procedures

HOST Dry Extraction Cleaner

1. Pre-vacuum with the HOST Liberator® machine, making four passes (north-south, east-west.)
2. Apply the HOST cleaner to the area and immediately brush through the carpet with the Liberator.
3. Vacuum with the Liberator, making four passes.

Encapsulation

1. Pre-vacuum using a twin motor upright, making four passes.
2. Spray encapsulation chemical on the carpet.
3. Scrub the chemical into the area in two directions using a machine with twin counter-revolving brushes.
4. Allow carpet to dry for three hours.
5. Vacuum the area.

Hot Water Extraction

1. Pre-vacuum using a canister vacuum with “turbo” agitator, making four passes.
2. Pre-spray the carpet with an encapsulation-based detergent.
3. Scrub the chemical into the carpet in two directions using a machine with twin counter-revolving brushes.
4. Allow carpet to dry for three hours.
5. Vacuum the area using a canister vacuum with “turbo” agitator, making four passes.

Restoration Cleaning Test Procedures

HOST Dry Extraction Cleaner

1. Pre-vacuum using the HOST Liberator machine, making six passes (north-south, east-west, diagonally.)
2. Apply the HOST cleaner to the carpet and immediately brush it through the carpet in three directions using the Liberator.
3. Vacuum the area with the Liberator, making six passes.
4. Reapply the HOST cleaner to the area and immediately brush it through the carpet in three directions using the Liberator.
5. Vacuum the area with the Liberator, making six passes.

Encapsulation

1. Pre-vacuum using a twin motor upright vacuum, making eight passes.
2. Spray encapsulation chemical over the area.
3. Allow dwell time of ten minutes.
4. Scrub the chemical into the area in two directions using a machine with twin, counter-revolving brushes.
5. Rinse the area using clear, warm water four times.
6. Allow to dry overnight.
7. Vacuum using a twin motor upright, making eight passes.

Hot Water Extraction

1. Pre-vacuum using a canister vacuum with “turbo” agitator, making eight passes.
2. Spray encapsulation chemical over the area.
3. Allow dwell time of ten minutes.
4. Scrub the chemical into the area in two directions using a machine with twin, counter-revolving brushes.
5. Rinse the area using clear, warm water four times.
6. Allow to dry overnight.
7. Vacuum using a twin motor upright, making eight passes.



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HOST Dry Carpet Cleaner is Green Seal Certified. It meets Green Seal's environmental standard for industrial and institutional cleaners based on its reduced human and aquatic toxicity and reduced smog production potential.