

Cellulosic Browning

Occasionally a brownish discoloration can appear on a carpet, rug or on the cotton fringes of an Oriental rug after it has been cleaned. One of the causes of this discoloration is a condition called cellulosic browning. Cellulosic fibers are present in jute carpet, jute and natural rug backing materials, cotton rug fringes and rugs made with fibers like Cotton, Linen and Viscose.

What Causes Cellulosic Browning

In order for this discoloration to develop, several factors must be present; a cellulosic fiber, moisture, and slow drying. A high pH or shampoo residue may also contribute to its occurrence. Inefficient drying can greatly increase the chances of cellulosic browning. At-home spotting attempts on viscose and other cellulose fibers often result in browning due to these reactions.

Age is important and can also be a factor in cellulosic browning. Cellulosic fibers deteriorate with time and these changes can produce a tan or brownish discoloration or appearance. Sometimes in the cleaning process, these discolorations can wick to the surface.

Treatment

- Cellulosic browning can often be treated and corrected by an ARCS professional as it is not usually a permanent stain.
- Permanent browning occurs particularly in older items and those where the browning has been present for a long period of time and may have advanced cellulosic fiber degradation.
- In some cases, the discoloration cannot be completely removed.

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