

Reappearing Stains

That darn stain keeps coming back in the same place. Why?! Reappearing stains can be a result of many different factors. In general what happens is something is clinging to your rug fibers and attracting soil back to that spot. Oils and home spotting are often to blame for this.

How Stains are Created from Oils and Home Spotting

Oils are not soluble, meaning they do not dissolve in water. However, the soil that sticks to the oil causing it to appear as a dark colored stain is. Consequently, when the rug is washed these soluble soils are washed out, but the clear oil remains attached to the rug fibers.

If your rug care specialist is alerted to this ahead of time they can treat the area to break down the oils, but it can be hard to tell if you've removed all of the oil as it does not present any indication of its existence once the soluble soil is washed out. We often see this happening with kitchen rugs which have oil splatters.

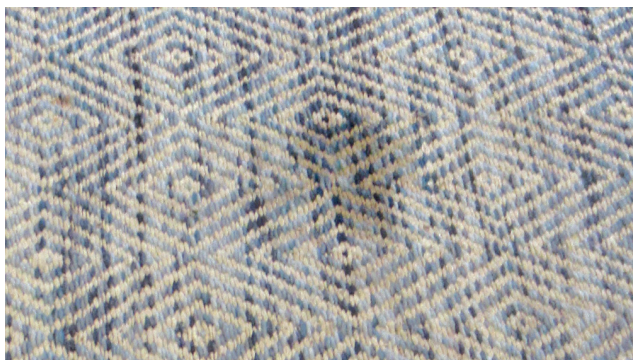
The other likely culprit is home spotting. A lot of over the counter spotters are highly concentrated and leave a lot of residue in your rug. Much like oil, this residue then attracts soil. Often times it is easier to tell if there is soap residue remaining in the rug, but if high qualities of a concentrated product is present it can be very difficult to remove all of it.

Furthermore, if natural soaps were used for spotting they leave behind a type of soap scum which continues to attract soil. This is often seen in older thick pile rugs like Kerman's and Chinese rugs. Natural soaps were a go-to method for spotting and cleaning.

Treating Stains

- When your rug is soiled many of these stains won't show, but once your rug is clean, they become more apparent. This explains how a stain can appear that seems as though it wasn't there before.
- It is important to bring reappearing stains to your rug care specialists attention as soon as they show. It can make it easier to diagnose the reason and locate an area that might need more attention. In most cases these stains can be addressed and resolved.
- Though there are other foreign materials that can cause a reappearing stain, the concept is generally the same.

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Dark Stain



Oil Stain