

# Texture Change

**T**exture change is often seen on larger area rugs. Where smaller rugs tend to be walked on more evenly, large rugs will generally have furniture on them guiding people to walk in a certain pattern. On carpeting this is usually referred to as traffic areas. The main difference here being that when your carpet is cleaned the furniture remains in place so the difference in texture is seldom noticed. Since area rugs are removed for cleaning the stark difference between the areas walked on and the areas hidden under furniture can become more noticeable. These walk patterns can occasionally look like soil but are actually areas where light does not reflect back the same and thus usually appear darker.

## Types of Rugs that Develop Texture Change

Synthetic rugs develop texture change rather easily as they are not as strong as wool or silk. Most synthetic rugs are made of a plastic like fiber which once it bends from foot traffic it is no longer the same. Think of a plastic straw. Once you bend it, it wants to keep bending in that same place and can even develop a haze in the place where it bent. Each fiber on your synthetic rug is essentially a plastic straw repeatedly being bent as you walk over it. In the case of synthetic rugs, they will not only show a difference in shade, but also in the clarity of the design. Lighter colored synthetic rugs will show a greyish color as the texture change sets in. This grey generally is not soil but micro scratches sending light in different directions like scuffed up sunglasses.

Another weak fiber that can easily develop texture change is Viscose which goes by various names such as Bamboo Silk or Rayon to name a few. Viscose is a very weak fiber derived from a natural cellulose product such as flax seed plant or bamboo. Essentially viscose is glorified fancy paper. Texture change not only happens from traffic patterns but also home spotting. Aggressively scrubbing viscose, especially when wet, can irreversibly change the texture in that area.

## Fibers that Resist Texture Change

- Certain fibers such as wool are less likely to develop texture change that can't be corrected with cleaning, however they are not immune to it.
- Particularly rugs with lower pile density and lower quality wool are more likely to show the walk patterns as the fibers will start to untwist and, in some cases, become entangled with each other like a dreadlock. In these cases, cleaning is unlikely to correct the texture change and may not be as bright as the rest of the rug that is fluffy and untouched.

**ARCS**  
ASSOCIATION OF RUG CARE SPECIALISTS



Walk Pattern Texture Change



Texture Change from Home Spotting