

HEALTHY, WEALTHY & WISE

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When the *Unthinkable* Happens... Do Carpet Stain Protectors **REALLY** Work?

You see it on television and internet commercials all the time, a glass of wine or fruit punch being spilled on a beautiful, new carpet. The guests are mortified, but the smiling hostess blots up the spill with a towel, leaving the carpet clean and spot free. Disaster averted, the party continues. But, *is this really the way it works? Well, yes and no.*

Modern Stain Protectors

Virtually all carpets manufactured today feature some type of protector application. These specialized fluoropolymers have names like Permashield®, R2X®, Repel®, and of course, DuPont Teflon® and 3M Scotchgard®. In addition, almost all nylon carpets are treated with special stain blockers called

acid dye resisters to help prevent permanent staining by common food and beverage spills.

When a carpet is new, the factory applied protectors perform extremely well. Liquid spills literally bead up on the surface of the carpet yarns. But as a carpet ages with traffic, vacuuming and even professional cleaning the protection wears off and is

See "When the Unthinkable HAPPENS" on next



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reduced significantly. That's why major carpet manufacturers recommend annual cleaning and protector application on most residential carpets.

How Protectors Keep Your Carpets Looking Good

You may wonder how these miracle polymers work. Well, they work partially through surface energy, which is similar to surface tension. You may have heard of surface tension; in fact, you have likely seen a demonstration of this phenomenon in action when a glass is filled with water so that the water rises slightly above the rim of the glass without spilling over. If you are careful, you can actually float a metal paper clip on the surface of a glass of water, too – this is due to surface tension.

Surface tension is used to describe what happens at the surface of liquids. But solid materials like carpet fibers have a property called surface energy. Surface energy is not easily explained or demonstrated, so let's just say that surface energy determines how well liquid can penetrate a solid. If a

liquid is spilled onto a fiber that has high surface energy it will penetrate easily. If a liquid is spilled on a fiber with low surface energy it will tend not to penetrate. Fluoropolymers work by reducing the surface energy of a material.

Protectors not only shield your carpet from water-based spills but also from oils, grease and dry particles. This means that you have more time to blot-up spills or tracked in soils. And, vacuuming becomes more efficient as various soils can't adhere well because the dry soils are repelled and oily and sticky soils are repelled so they don't attract additional soil. That is important because it is the dry, gritty particulates that do the most damage to your carpets, scratching and dulling the fibers just like sandpaper. All of this means that carpets which are regularly cleaned and protected last longer and look better, brighter and newer.

Re-Protecting Your Carpet

Like any topical coating, fluoropolymers wears away with age and

use. Laboratory testing reveals that protection is reduced by 30% or more each year. Even professional cleaning, important as it is, removes these protectors.

The fact is that your carpets are only new once. When the fibers have been dulled and abraded they will never look as colorful and pretty as they did when new. Protectors help to slow this damage and keep carpets looking newer longer. So remember, even though you vacuum regularly and periodically have your carpets professionally cleaned, they still need a protector applied in order to last a long time.

Make your next professional cleaning more effective – Have a protector applied to your carpet! It will enhance your next cleaning. Your carpet will stay cleaner and more soil will be removed the next time your carpeting is professionally cleaned.

Contact **Chet's Cleaning** today for more tips, help or to schedule an appointment.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

Why can't Cinderella play soccer?

Because she's always running away from the ball.

Why can't you send a duck to space?

Because the bill would be astronomical!

Why is a snake difficult to fool?

You can't pull its leg!

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

Because then it would be a foot.



Ingredients

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into thick slices
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons seasoned salt (such as Lawry's)

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 25 mins

Total Time: 35 mins

Servings: 4

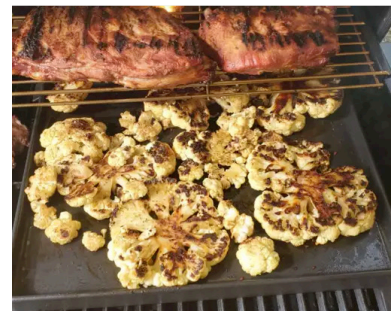
GRILLED Cauliflower

Directions

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat and lightly oil the grate.

Sprinkle cauliflower slices on both sides with olive oil, brown sugar, and seasoned salt.

Cook cauliflower on the preheated grill until char marks appear, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a grill-safe pan with a lid, cover, and continue cooking on the grill until tender, about 20 minutes.



Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com

Is Your Parent's Home (or Yours) Safe for AGING in Place

Here are seven ways to create a safe, accessible environment for your aging parents - or yourself.

1. Create clear pathways. It's vital for people to have clear pathways to get around in their home. Look at the rooms, especially the living room and bedroom, with a critical eye.

2. Remove throw rugs. They're one of the biggest tripping hazards in the home, and they can make using a walker problematic. Get them up and get them out! Also, use non-slip wax on wood floors and add non-skid treads to steps.

3. Add a toilet seat with built-in support arms. Seats like the Bemis Independence Assurance is securely mounted directly to the porcelain ensuring exceptional stability, and is elevated three inches, to make sitting and standing easier.

4. Add non-slip treads or appliques to the bathtub or shower floor to prevent a nasty fall. Add grab bars to help steady people in the shower or for extra stability getting into and out of the tub, and a waterproof shower seat.

5. Consider converting your tub into a walk-in shower. Although more expensive than adding grab bars, a walk-in shower is much safer than climbing over a tub, and can also accommodate a wheelchair.

6. "Smarten" up the house. Smart faucets, thermostats and other smart appliances can add ease of use, protection and safety for older adults. All can be monitored from a cell phone, which adds peace of mind for adult children.

7. Install cameras inside and outside the house. Cameras give you a way to check on your loved one instantly on your phone, from wherever they are.



Aging in place, the ability to live at home safely as we age, is crucial for many of us. But most of us have not thought about the types of home modifications we need to make aging in place possible.

5 MONEY-Saving Strategies to BEAT Inflation

While you can't directly influence the inflation rate, you can find ways to reduce your spending on things like insurance, groceries, your phone, gas and streaming services.

1. Shop around for the best insurance deals - Carve out time to search for a better deal for your car, renters' and home insurance, and don't settle for the first quote you receive. You could save an average of 18% by bundling your home and auto policies.

2. Switch up your phone plan for savings - If you've had the same phone plan for a while, explore other options. Many plans offer competitive rates and deals to new customers who make the switch. Be sure to pick a carrier that will help you save AND treat you well.

3. Choose generic brands at the grocery store - Opt for generic brands instead of name

brands. You can save without sacrificing quality. Consumer Reports found that 76% of generic food items tasted as good as the name brands, and can save you as much as 72% per serving.

4. Embrace alternative transportation methods - You can save on ever increasing fuel costs by using alternative forms of transportation. Public transit riders can save more than \$13,000 a year. Consider biking, walking or carpooling with friends or neighbors or a combination of these transportation methods to save and get to where you want to go.

5. Bundle up your subscriptions - While you could cancel subscriptions, an easier and more convenient way to save while still enjoying entertainment is to look for bundles. Just like with car and home insurance, bundling streaming subscriptions can give you a discount.



The rising cost of goods and services across the U.S. has many Americans feeling financial stress.

A New Shopping Experience is COMING Soon

Combining the functionality of QR codes and UPCs will create a more seamless and enriched purchasing process, aligning with the growing expectations of consumers and current technology. Additionally, cashiers will soon be able to scan them at their registers, confirming the item and price with the familiar "beep," since retailers have committed to implement QR code scanning at checkout by 2027.

Brands are increasingly using these QR codes on their products to communicate directly with consumers, clearing the way for an entirely transformed future shopping experience to unfold with a myriad of benefits:

1. Transparency and traceability: QR codes can reveal a product's origin, manufacturing process and supply chain details. If you're prioritizing healthy, ethical and sustainable purchases, this transparency is invaluable.

2. Enhanced product information: QR codes can provide nutritional facts, allergen warnings, user reviews and usage instructions. This helps consumers make better-informed choices, catering to their specific needs and preferences while protecting consumer safety.

3. Shopper perks: Discounted pricing, coupons and other engagement opportunities can be accessed via QR codes. Retail items can be labeled with links to promotions, recipes, instructions for use and more.

4. Safety and authenticity: Concerned about counterfeit goods? Scanning a QR code can confirm the product's authenticity, ensuring you're buying the real deal. And if a product is recalled for health or safety reasons, the QR code can be scanned to obtain details, helping you determine whether a product is affected or if it is safe to use.



Have you ever wished you could quickly access reliable, detailed specifics about a product before you bought it - and after? If so, you're not alone.



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