

Yellow and/or Gray Traffic Lanes:

If soil is left in the carpet for a long time it can actually chemically bond and become part of the fiber. It usually can be improved through professional cleaning depending on a number of factors. The two biggest factors are the number years the carpet has gone without professional cleaning and the grade of the carpet but is not limited to those.

A good example of this is your white, everyday socks. Overtime your socks become gray from soil and appear dirty after washing them even though they are clean and no soil is present. Sometimes bleaching them will brighten the discoloration but not always. With enough time the soil actually stains the socks creating the gray appearance.

The same is true for carpet. If soil is allowed enough time on the carpet it may stain the fibers and cause permanent damage. In most cases, steam cleaning with special cleaning techniques can remove most of the discoloration if not all. In rare cases, no improvement can be made. After professional cleaning, the carpets will appear soiled when in fact they are clean. This is often due to the combination of factors such as scratches, distortions, and soil that has chemically bonded with the fibers and has stained them.

Regular professional steam cleaning as recommended by carpet manufacturers would have prevented this damage. 99% of carpet mills recommend steam cleaning basis (aka hot water extraction, steam extraction) on a regular usually every 12-18 months before soiling is visibly present. In some cases, more frequent cleanings are necessary.

Dirty appearance or apparent soil that remains despite professional cleaning efforts is not the carpet cleaners fault.

The same is true for carpet that appears yellow. This is caused from oils/grease that could come from a variety of sources - food, grease, motor oil tracked in, etc. Also a small portion of soil can be oily in nature and cause this. Again, to prevent this frequent cleanings are needed.