

CARPET *Wrinkles, Ripples & Buckles*

Why Does This HAPPEN? Can It Be FIXED?

Carpet ripples and buckles can happen to old carpet, new carpet, in high traffic areas and in low traffic areas. These ripples not only look terrible, but can cause dangerous tripping hazards. Since this unsightly phenomenon can happen any time during the life of your carpet, even when it is new, prevention is the best medicine.

Ripples Happen

Ripples can occur throughout the life of a carpet. Ripples are small waves that usually appear sometime after the carpet is installed. They can happen in a localized area or throughout the entire room. Installer error is the most common cause. Though ripples can also develop from excessive

rolling traffic, improper carpet cushion, delamination of the primary and secondary backings and even some manufacturing defects.

To avoid ripples carpet should be installed using a power stretcher. Too often installers save time by using a knee-kicker. This results in inadequate stretch and the potential for ripples to develop as

See "Wrinkles, Ripples & Buckles" on next page

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the carpet relaxes. Ripples also occur to carpet that is not properly acclimated to the environment prior to installation, especially if the carpet is installed in cold weather. A carpet needs to acclimate to normal room temperature and humidity for at least 48 hours before installation.

Wrinkles are Born

Wrinkles are usually seen in new carpet immediately after installation. Carpet wrinkles are areas where the carpet has been folded or crushed during storage. Wrinkles not only affect the surface yarns, they go all the way through the carpet backings and may be permanent. It is best if this condition is identified before the carpet is installed. If possible the wrinkled portion of the carpet roll should not be used. Wrinkles may be improved by steaming and grooming the carpet, but the results will vary based on the type of carpet yarn, backing, and the severity of the wrinkles.

Cleaning and Repair of Wrinkled and Rippled Carpet

Occasionally, carpet will develop ripples immediately after cleaning. This can be quite disturbing to both the homeowner and the cleaner. The cause is moisture absorption into the adhesive layer between the primary and secondary backings of the carpet. Even though the ripples appear after cleaning, the root cause is improper stretch of the carpet during installation. Usually once the carpet dries completely and acclimates to the normal temperature and humidity of the home the carpet will lie flat again. This can take up to 48 hours, though in rare cases the ripples may persist.

The only way to fix rippled carpet is to re-stretch the carpet. Re-stretching requires training, skill and patience. It is more difficult to re-stretch a carpet than it is to stretch it right the first time. If ripples are ignored for too long, the carpet will develop buckles. Buckles are large ripples that form

breaks and/or wrinkles through the face yarns and carpet backing. If buckles are not corrected permanent damage to the texture and structure of the carpet results. Even if the carpet is re-stretched the damage from buckles may still be apparent.

So what should you do if your carpet develops ripples? If the carpet is still under warranty, it's best to contact the installer and the retailer where you purchased the carpet. If you don't get any help there the manufacturer would be the next logical step. You may have to be persistent and patient to get results, so keep track of names, dates, and times of all calls or e-mails. If your carpet is out of warranty and has ripples or buckles, steaming and grooming the pile yarns may help minimize the appearance of the damage.

Contact **A-Town/Hi-Tech** today for more tips, help or to schedule an appointment.

The Good Life



Good Clean Funnies

What do you think of that new diner on the moon?

Food was good, but there really wasn't much atmosphere.

What goes up but never comes down?

Your age.

What does every birthday end with?

The letter Y.



PRIZE Winning BBQ Ribs

Directions

Preheat a gas grill for high heat, or arrange charcoal briquettes on one side of the barbecue. Lightly oil the grate.

In a small jar, combine cumin, chili powder, paprika, salt, and pepper. Close the lid, and shake to mix.

Run a small, sharp knife between the membrane sheath and each rib, and snip off the as much of the membrane as possible. Sprinkle as much of the rub on to both sides of the ribs as desired. To prevent the ribs from becoming too dark and spicy, do not thoroughly rub the spices into the ribs. Store the unused portion of the spice mix for future use.

Place aluminum foil on lower rack to capture drippings and prevent flare-ups. Lay the ribs on the top rack of the grill (away from the coals, if you're using briquettes). Reduce gas heat to low, close lid, and leave undisturbed for 1 hour. Do not lift the lid at all.

Brush ribs with barbecue sauce, and grill an additional 5 minutes. Serve ribs as whole rack, or cut between each rib bone and pile individually on a platter.

A foolproof, simple recipe for the most tender, delectable ribs you've ever had. Follow the directions exactly, and success is guaranteed!

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 pounds baby back pork ribs
- 1 cup barbecue sauce

Prep: 30 mins

Cook: 1 hr 5 mins

Total: 1 hr 35 mins

Servings: 6

Recipe courtesy allrecipes.com



KEEP Healthy Habits This School Year



A CDC study shows that when kids have healthy habits, they tend to have high academic achievement and display better classroom behavior.

Back-to-school season is upon us!

While the world is slowly returning to normal, it can be a hectic time for your family. Healthy habits can help your kids reach their full potential.

Here are a few tips that will help:

1. Get quality and consistent sleep –

Kids should get at least 9 to 12 hours of sleep each night, which can feel impossible on a hectic schedule. Below are some things you can do that will make bedtime easier:

- Cutting out electronics 1 hour before bed
- Creating a bedtime routine
- Keeping their room temperature cool

2. Eat a healthy breakfast –

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day because

it boosts your child's energy which can help keep them full and focused throughout the day.

3. Drink plenty of water – Keeping kids hydrated can significantly impact their health, especially when the weather is hot. Children ages 4 - 8 should drink 5 glasses of water per day. Kids 9 - 13 should drink 6 cups a day for girls, and boys should drink 7 cups a day. Putting fruit in their water, or getting them naturally flavored sparkling water will make it more fun and easier to drink.

4. Have nourishing snacks when working on assignments –

For homework and projects after school, having healthy snacks available for your child will keep them full and focused and make those after-school projects much easier to tackle and complete.

Farewell to OVERDRAFT Charges?



When they debuted nearly 30 years ago, overdraft charges were meant to provide a cushion for consumers who accidentally withdrew more money than was available in their bank accounts. The bank would cover the deficit and charge the customer a fee to do so, and the customer would avoid bouncing checks or being declined at checkout.

Yet over the years, the practice changed. Overdraft fees became an enormous and controversial source of income for banks, worth billions -- \$20.3 billion in 2020.

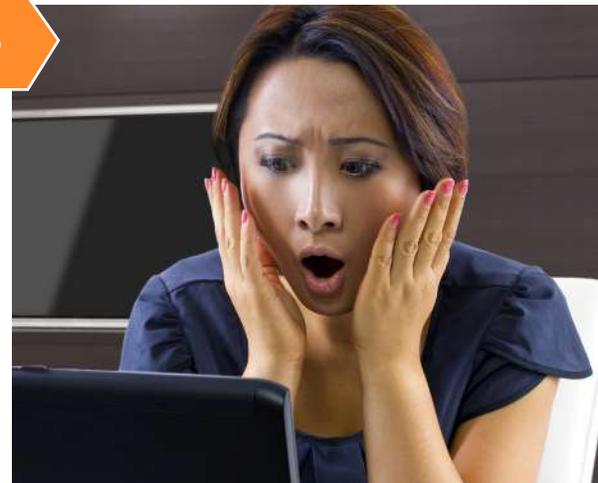
The controversy? The biggest one involves banks rearranging the order of transactions so that the most expensive ones get processed first. Then when an account goes into the red, the bank dings the customer with a fee for each subsequent transaction, no matter how

small the purchase. At \$35 a pop in some places, the fees can quickly spiral -- turning buying a pack of gum into a nightmare.

Consumer watchdogs have suggested a system that alerts consumers to a potential fee at the point of sale, allowing people to opt in to purchases that will result in a negative balance, or decline the purchase.

Some financial institutions are providing alternatives. A growing number of banks are offering grace periods and small short-term loans for users who qualify. Some even eliminated its overdraft fee altogether.

Other banks introduced a service to alert customers when their balances are low and when they go negative. They give customers 24 hours to rectify it and if not, an overdraft fee is charged, but just one per day rather than per transaction.



Today's banks are seeking compromises to overdraft fees that help consumers while mitigating their own risks and protect profits.



7 Tips to AVOID Distracted Driving



It is estimated that 81% of drivers read and type text messages while driving. 70% use social media while driving and 5% say their smartphone is essential for getting around.

What can you do to keep the roads safe by limiting distractions?

1. Use your phone's built-in tools: Set your phone to Do Not Disturb, and avoid phone calls even if they are hands free. Preset your navigation and any preferences.

2. Don't cut corners: Avoid texting or using your phone in stop-and-go traffic or at red lights.

3. If it's an emergency, PULL OVER: No call is worth jeopardizing the safety of you and your passengers.

4. Recruit a navigator: If you're driving with a passenger, enlist them to perform navigation and other tasks like climate control and audio selection.

5. Hands on the wheel: Resist personal grooming, eating, drinking, and fiddling with the stereo or entertainment system while driving.

6. Leave pets at home: If you must travel with your pet, don't let them roam freely in the car. It is not safe for you or your pet.

7. Utilize technology when it makes sense: There are many new driving apps available now that can bring undesirable-driving behaviors like phone handling to light, and encourage safer driving by offering big auto insurance discounts.

Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.





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Labor Day

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