

▶▶ **HOUSEKEEPING**

**AN OVERLOOKED STEP IN CARPET CLEANING**

One of the steps most frequently overlooked when it comes to hotel carpet cleaning has nothing to do with the actual carpet extraction process at all. But it has everything to do with what cleaning task should be performed before carpets are cleaned, and that is vacuuming.

Sometimes housekeepers assume because they're using an advanced carpet extraction system, vacuuming the carpet before cleaning isn't necessary. This is actually quite common with carpet cleaning technicians as well. Yet it's a very serious oversight. More than three-quarters of the soil in a carpet is dry and can be easily removed with effective vacuuming.

If not removed, once the extractor injects moisture into the carpet, there is the potential for the dry soil to become a form of mud. Most carpet cleaning machines were never designed to remove mud.



One reason the appearance can be impaired is something called "wicking." This occurs as the carpet is drying and the moisture is evaporating. Water rises to the surface, bringing with it deeply embedded soils or chemical residue not removed in the extraction process. As this occurs, the tips of the carpet fibers become dark or brown.

On a cut-pile carpet, which is typically a blend of synthetic fibers and the most likely type in

guestrooms, an upright, preferably twin-motor vacuum cleaner should be used to remove the soil and prevent wicking and browning.

Housekeepers should always use slow, overlapping strokes. Pay particular attention to heavily soiled areas. Very often, these are darkened areas of the carpet due to the soiling, as well as heavily trafficked areas. Be sure the vacuum filter bags are less than two-thirds full; any fuller and it can reduce the chance of vacuuming up the maximum amount of dry soil from the carpet.

\* **Mark Baxter** is an engineer and product manager for U.S. Products, a manufacturer of professional carpet cleaning, restoration, and floor care equipment.

▶▶ **PRODUCTS**

**FURNITURE**

PS Furniture's new Revolution Reception Tables dramatically decrease the amount of storage space needed for pedestal-type reception tables by up to 60 percent. The innovative new product allows users to stack and store 20 complete tables, including columns and bases, in less than 10 square feet of room.



**GUESTROOM CONTROLS**

INNCOM's new MODEVA takes the Glass Series to a new level by bringing all the guestroom control features into a sleekly designed system housed in either a capacitive glass or a more traditional keypad user interface. MODEVA consists of user interfaces, low-voltage interfaces, wire and wireless communications, dimmers and wall box switches designed to operate within the company's integrated Room Automation System.



**IN-ROOM TECHNOLOGY**

The Iron Media Guest Portal is a touch-screen guestroom terminal display that gives guests a single resource to access services and amenities.

It also includes the ability to connect to the facility's most underutilized system, the resident PBX. The facility can bill back calls made from the Guest Portal to the guestroom. Rolling advertisements are displayed on the bottom of the screen and can be sold, while vendor buttons can be leased for a monthly fee to help offset the cost of the guest-enhancing system.



**BLENDERS**

Vitamix's The Quiet One is a powerful blender that provides sound reduction, exceptional blends for a consistently superior product and significantly improved speed of service, the company says.



**A/V SECURITY**

Premier Mounts' new Lock-It security components protect A/V equipment. The Lock-It security barrel enhances the company's feature-rich ProAV Low Profile line of mounts. Sliding the proprietary security barrel over one of the leveling screws allows the user to easily secure the flat panel to a wall with a padlock or a steel-cable locking system.

**ENERGY CONTROLS**

Advanced Telemetry's EcoView is a cost-effective, small commercial smart energy management system that enables users to easily view and reduce their resource consumption and utility bills with the touch of a button. In addition to electricity, the EcoView touch panel and web portal enables users to view and control gas and water, lighting, security and more.



**SAUNAS**

The new mPulse from Sunlighten Saunas includes a biofeedback monitor programmed to wirelessly send heart rate, calories burned and core body temperature data into a wellness website for personal use.

