Which Protector Should I Use?

Protectors are an important part of the cleaning process and can prevent permanent stains, reduce resoiling, protect carpet fibers and make your cleaning job easier on your next visit. Because of the value to you and your customer, we’ve created a guide to help you pick the right protector for the job.

Anionic or Cationic?

Anionic protectors, or protectors with a negative charge, generally contain an “acid-dye resistor”. This is the fancy term given to the molecule that bonds to the dye sites on a carpet fiber and prevents staining agents like Kool-Aid® from permanently dying the carpet fiber. Use an anionic protector for nylon and wool carpets to avoid those nasty red stains.

Cationic protectors are not compatible with acid dye resistors because they have a negative charge - you can’t combine a positive charge (cationic) with a negative charge (anionic) or it reduces the effectiveness of the protector. This is why cationic protectors are inferior to anionic protectors at preventing stains on nylon and wool carpet. They do; however, excel at repelling water and oil. Since olefin and polyester fibers don’t have dye sites, the stain-resistant benefits of an anionic protector is wasted on them. The real problem with these fibers is they are “oil-loving”. Use of a cationic protector will repel oil and water and limit the amount of oily soils they soak up - it’ll make your cleaning 6 months later much easier.

Contact your local store or salesperson for more information, 800-660-5803, or visit interlinksupply.com.

![protector comparison chart]

- Anionic protectors: Bridgepoint Systems, Bridgepoint Systems, Bridgepoint Systems, Bridgepoint Systems
- Cationic protectors: Bridgepoint Systems, Bridgepoint Systems, Groom Industries, Dupont

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Like our Facebook page and enter our monthly giveaways - win a Protector Package in May!