

Case Study

Vaportek Liquids Safe for Wool

Darrin Hickman of Clean Quik Carpet Service puts ECOZ to the Test!

Based in Nashville, TN, Darrin Hickman recently tested Vaportek's ECOZ on wool rugs and carpets. Hickman has been a longtime user of our Vapor Shark system and other dry vapor technology, but he had no experience with our liquid line.

"Anyone who knows me knows I love Vaportek machines. However, I had never used their [liquids] before, so I was excited to give them a try," Hickman said.

Vaportek had heard from several carpet professionals who wanted to know about the safety of using ECOZ on wool. We decided to contract an existing distributor to do the case study.

Hickman explains why working with wool can be tricky in the carpet cleaning industry: "Wool is considered a hard fiber to deal with because it's organic. For years we have been told not to use chemicals lower than a 4.5 pH or higher than a 8.5 pH on wool. Buffered chemicals and oxidation can damage the cuticle layer of wool. The last problem with wool is the odor; after all, it's the fur of an animal so it can smell like one."

Working with wool rugs of "different ages and quality," Hickman began his testing. "I started my test with small, 70% wool samples. Two of them I saturated for an extended period of time with ECOZ to see if it would fade the colors or start to mold after several days. One sample was placed in my shop and the other was in direct sunlight in the window of my office so I could watch for bleaching. After I was satisfied that ECOZ was not a threat to my clients, I started using it both in my pit cleaning and as a finishing spray on several rugs that came into the shop." Hickman had success with Vaportek's ECOZ on wool, stating, "I will say I never had a problem with any of the rugs cleaned."



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Not one to shy away from exploring a product to its entirety, Hickman did some additional tests of his own. "My inquisitive side wasn't done, so I had a sample piece that I covered in soot and then let it sit a week to build a good odor. After cleaning it, we sprayed the rug down and it was clear of odor."

Hickman also decided to test ECOZ on wool that had been contaminated with food odors. "My last test was to pour curry powder on a sample, then wet it, and let it dry. I will admit that just spraying it down with ECOZ didn't cover the odor; I had to clean the sample then apply ECOZ for it to work."

Hickman tested other carpet fibers with success. He even went so far as to test ECOZ on his skin. "I wondered if my skin would breakout from using ECOZ, so I sprayed my arm that week while I was testing. I was not red or itchy."

Vaportek offers a wide range of treatment options and has always maintained that our liquids pair well with our dry vapor systems. Hickman collaborates this, saying, "While Vaportek's dry vapor systems are great for removing odors that are in the air, the source of the odor needs to be addressed. The ECOZ liquid line is perfect for killing odors at the source."

Hickman's final assessment? "I encourage you to buy some of Vaportek's products and test them yourself." We could not agree more! Thank you for your seal of approval, Darrin.

Here at Vaportek, we take pride in our ability to help our customers solve their tough odor problems and we want to be *your* air quality partner. ASK what Vaportek products can do for you!