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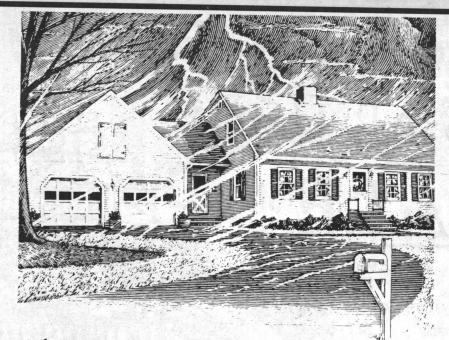
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### **Drapery sunburn**

Every drapery in your house is falling apart right now. You may think that draperies receive little actual wear, and that they could never wear out. But the "life expectancy" given for unlined and sheer drapes is only three years; for lined drapes, five years.

The cause of this ruinous attack is sunlight. As it beats against draperies for hours a day, it is actually deteriorating the fibers. Silk drapes hanging in a sunny window can become rotted in three months.

You will see evidence of the sun's powerful effect if you notice draperies that have become streaked – yellowed or faded along the inside edge of each fold. Damage occurs only where the sun hits most; areas of the drape hanging over the wall will show almost no change.

Sun-deterioration is the biggest danger of drapery drycleaning. When those "fold edges" of the fabric become weak enough, they can't withstand the agitation



of cleaning, and tear or shred. The tears will be long and straight and correspond to where folds would be if the drapery was hung.

Although this happens only after cleaning, it is the result of a condition over which the drycleaner has no control. Experts offer these tips as the only prevention to sun-rotting:

1. Line your drapes. Use window-shades.

2. Choose the most light-resistant fabrics: acrylic, saran, polyester or nylon. Acetate, cotton and rayon are the most susceptible. Densely-woven fabrics wear longer.

3. Darker, duller colors look less faded over a longer period than light ones. You might want to change to paler, light-reflecting colors in summer.

#### **Coated Drapery Fabrics**

Some draperies and some drapery linings are coated to give them desirable characteristics while hanging. Substances used include acrylic resins, rubber glass, or polyurethane plastic.

The coating permanence depends on temperature and time. Unless your drycleaner uses quality control, the coating may peel and stick resulting in loss of coating. Even in a few area, this loss will allow light to pass through the fabric and give it a stained appearance.

Drapery fabrics, though coated, are affected by sunlight and atmospheric gases.

Rugs – choose a cleaner Cleaning a carpet the wrong way makes it dirtier. The most important step in carpet-cleaning is removing all the soap, as well as the dirt, from the carpet. Any soap residue left in the carpet will attract dirt, and make the carpet look worse than before.

Most carpet-cleaning methods begin with high-power vacuuming, or beating, to remove dust. Then the rug is treated in one of several ways to loosen soil: shampooing by rotary machine; foam absorption; or soil extraction, often called "steam-cleaning." In the latter method, jet streams of water are forced into the pile, and the same machine then vacuums up the dirty water.

Carpets can be drycleaned by brushing special, powdered solvents into the pile. The solvents absorb soil, and then the dirty powder is vacuumed away.

It is important with rugs to also wash their undersides. Otherwise, the dirt washed down from the pile will embed itself on the rug back. Rugs should be wrung, then hung to dry in warm, mild, air currents.

When a stain occurs on carpeting, immediately blot up as much as possible. Oil and grease stains should be wiped with a very small amount of non-flammable solvent. Professionals suggest using a mixture of mild detergent and a teaspoon of vinegar in a quart of warm water on most spills. Blot up mixture quickly, and place a towel over the area to further absorb it as the rug dries.

