

# carpetbaggers

It's important for your health to keep your carpets clean as they can trap dirt and mould and harbour dust mites. But make cleaning your carpets a more environmentally friendly process. Commercial carpet cleaning generates waste water that includes chemicals and dirt from the cleaning process. Clean your carpets with environmentally safe chemicals and natural alternatives (eg salt for red wine stains) and employ green-aware carpet-cleaning professionals. Why not place small, washable rugs made of untreated natural fibres over your carpets, or check out other flooring material such as bamboo squares.

# that sinking feeling

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**C**heck all the taps around your house. New taps have energy star or A-ratings – more stars or As means less water waste – and you can get flow restrictors or aerators fitted to existing taps (aerators lower the flow by adding air to the stream). Check for leaks and replace washers regularly – a leaky tap can dribble away up to 200 litres a day – and be sure to turn off taps properly or be prepared to see up to 600 extra litres of water a day appear on your bill! Keep plugs in the sink when washing fruit and vegies, and use the water later for rinsing dishes or watering your indoor plants.