



**mighty mac**  
it's beary clean  
(843)842-3994

## SHADOWS & REFLECTIONS

Every carpet cleaner I know has spent many hours trying to clean shadows. Like other “apparent soiling” issues, such as crushing or shading, shadows can vex consumers and cleaners alike.

Indirect sunlight and reflections are the biggest culprits. Interior lighting or poor carpet installation share some blame as well. The easiest way to check if what you are seeing is a shadow is by shining a bright light directly overhead. Slowly move around the spot, blocking any possible side lighting. If you notice any change in color to the carpet during this exercise, a shadow or reflection likely is the culprit. Here are a few examples I have run into:

Light striking a beveled glass coffee table threw a multicolored streak across a living room.

The light from an ornate gold leaf picture frame reflected blotchy spots onto the carpet.

A poorly constructed carpet seam resulted in the carpet having a small “Λ” shape running the length of the room. This “seam peaking” created a light and dark line on the sides of the seam.

A gloss black jewelry box cast a rectangular shaped gray reflection on the carpet.

A recently trimmed tree allowed sunlight to strike the inside of a Thermopane window, creating a light colored line on the carpet.

A window on a third floor stairway lit the entire stairwell and caused a large hand rail to cast a shadow onto the second floor landing.



This photo shows light colored streaks running from top to bottom in the photo. The streaks were caused by concave decorative plastic dividers inside a Thermopane window. The dark line running across the picture is a spare piece of carpet that I placed on the floor. Since the streaking was evident in both the installed carpet as well as the spare piece, it proved the streaks were not caused by poor cleaning practices as the owners representative had claimed.