

When rug wringing is not all wet

Lessons to be learned from European rug drying equipment.

By **TOM MONAHAN**



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There are many ways to clean area rugs. The challenge currently facing total immersion cleaners is how to effectively accelerate drying a rug.

Schools of thought vary, depending on what part of the planet one lives on or what an instructor for any of the various certifying educational bodies may choose to feature.

Location matters

Reliance on environmental conditions, such as the sun's heat, has been in use for centuries and currently is used throughout arid climate zones in rug production regions of Asia and the Middle East.

A traveler would find it typical to see rug washing on the river banks or concrete slab wash floors.

These washers then commonly lay the rugs out for the sun to do its work. This would be done either laying out the rugs flat or, in some cases, on elevated poles.

It is thought that rug patina can be judged, by a dis-

criminating eye, on how much the direct sunlight played in drying the rug.

This ongoing drying technique has worked well for those in India, Iran, Turkey and elsewhere.

The economic factor

The economic scale and demand for production has been part of the reason for unnecessary mechanical assistance, either by machines or drying chambers managed by heat from fossil fuels, or monitored by dehumidification equipment and elaborate controls known and used stateside.

Here in North America, entrepreneurs have sought mechanical ways to remedy quick turnaround times for their rug cleaning customers.

This has especially been the case for the in-plant rug cleaner who handles many rugs a day.

A whole array of equipment and machines has surfaced to assist in this remedy.

Compression wringers were successfully brought to



Modern rug plants often speed up production with an automated washer with a compression wringer followed by hanging rugs on a dry tower.

market by various inventors since the early part of the 20th century.

Some operators, due to space considerations, have rigged poles to hoist rugs into the air for drying. Some businesses sprung up that catered to this demand and built fully automated rug cleaning machines with automated dry towers, with elaborate high-heat dry rooms.

All along the way, companies also sprung up to replicate the concept of static dry towers with cable and hoists in almost any size and budget to fill the niche.

Centrifugal technology

Middle Eastern and European companies have designed and built upon age-old centrifugal technology. Europeans, since the 20th century, have made horizontal machines designed to accept a rolled up wet rug and spin the water out in just a few moments.

The European machines are produced in varying sizes, but have some limitations for aggressive production of rug plant operators.

Nonetheless, these units are very effective in wringing the water out of rugs. European models have a diameter and length that has stalemated their use for larger rugs, which are often found in the U.S. market as well as elsewhere.

The evolution of the centrifuge is going the way of the early compression wringers and hoisting poles and dry rooms.

It appears every operator is considering the best use of energy while making effective use of human resources, as well as considering the cost of expensive commercial floor space.

These costs are increasing in most parts of America. Drying wet rugs in various parts of the country has its own inherent climate issues and challenges.

The centrifuge and hoisting pole towers seems to address these concerns in today's market.

Not to be overlooked is the advantage of significantly reducing time being spent on drying and subsequent fringe detailing.

Solving problems

It is known that a wet, hanging rug,

with the aid of gravity, can lead to migration of unwanted material to the fringe. This discoloration may require many difficult hours to be spent on a remedy.

The centrifuge helps eliminate this problem, thus proving to have an invaluable place in today's in-plant cleaning operation.

All the centrifuges currently on the market, including the American-made horizontal centrifuge, take up little valuable floor space and process a rug so that it is only damp to the touch.

It is very successful in removing water. *(Concluded on next page)*

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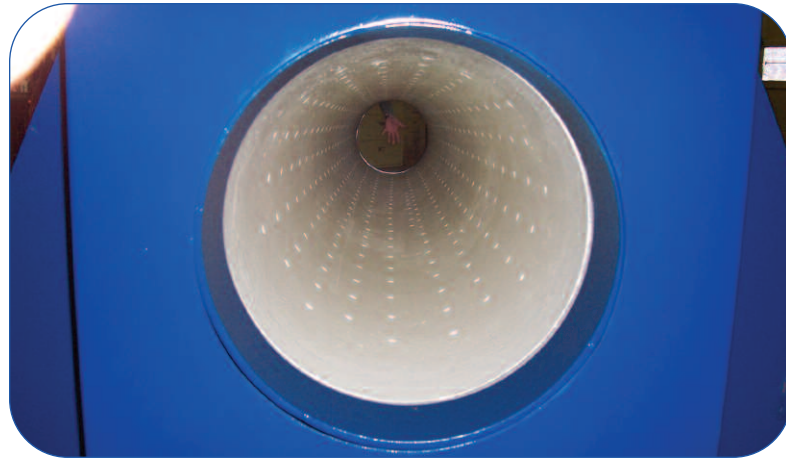
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European rug cleaning companies have been using centrifuge technology for years. The centrifuge used in a modern rug plant saves space, money and speeds up the drying process for rugs.

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That means drying time for rugs is shortened no matter what climate zone one is in.

It also means less — if any — fringe detailing.

In many areas of the U.S., it would reduce an energy cost that has been allocated to heat and dehumidification.

Therefore this equipment would allow the operator to make more profits.

Surely a good look at the recent surge in centrifugal concepts for drying rugs and various styles of dry towers for hanging damp rugs is worth considering for any serious rug cleaner. [CM](#)

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