

What's the secret to really clean carpets? And cleaning them the healthy way? Learn why Sandra Collingwood of Collingwood Carpet Care has just the scoop....

Sandra Collingwood of Collingwood Carpet Care is one of the Diplomat Committee's most recent additions. Proudly serving the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula for almost three decades, Collingwood finds that the secret to her business success is knowing what makes her company different. "Our carpet cleaning solution is eco-friendly and Green Seal Certified ...and one of the greenest products in the U.S. right now." she said. "Ninety-five percent of carpet cleaning methods use hot water extraction that can take up to twenty-four hours to dry...however, our method is low moisture and only takes 3-5 hours. It must be working...we're in our 28th year of business now."

Interestingly, Collingwood and her husband, David, are both trained educators. As a science teacher, David Collingwood made a career change when a friend offered to train him in the carpet cleaning business. "We call ourselves blue collar scholars." she said. "David's background in science provided him a special insight into how solutions work." Sandra's training is in language education. She studied English and French at UCLA and the University of Bordeaux, France. She taught English as a Second Language and French privately for many years before joining her husband in the business. Initially serving as the company's secretary and bookkeeper, she began marketing the business fulltime in 1990. Now serving as the owner, she continues her passion for marketing and public relations. Once you meet Sandra you'll realize that a zest for polka-dotted clothing are part of her special signature. "Polka dots are indeed my brand." she said. "I have an entire wardrobe of them. Years ago I wore them to a function and someone remarked how my dots looked like spots...that's how it all began."

Every aspect of Collingwood Carpet Care is focused on developing the most thorough cleaning available. The business offers quality carpet, upholstery and Oriental rug cleaning. "Our policy is to stress quality cleaning above volume business." she said. "Our cleaning will last twice as long as others. We have put together the best equipment, personnel, technique and cleaning solution to achieve the most thorough cleaning possible." Collingwood Carpet Care has clients throughout the Salinas Valley and the Monterey Peninsula.

"We have a fast-drying, healthy system that's not detergent based." she said. Collingwood notes that her method of cleaning is frequently chosen by those with allergies or breathing problems. "Our cleaning solution was tested in hospitals two years before it was placed on the market and it is non-allergenic." She adds that many commercial clients, including medical and dental offices, as well as residential clients prefer her cleaning solution and technique.

The company also markets "Super Spotter"-a uniquely blended spot remover that's truly amazing. "Most spots can be removed quickly and easily if you have the right solution and knowledge of its proper use." she said. "If spots are left too long, they cause a chemical change in the dye that becomes a permanent stain." Collingwood Carpet Care's clients report that "Super Spotter" is also very effective on clothing, upholstery and auto interiors. "We advise you to test it in an inconspicuous place before using it on clothing or upholstery." she said. "Since we are a carpet cleaning company first, we market it primarily as a carpet spotter. However, it has many other uses and its cleaning powers are virtually endless. We're proud that this product is approved and used by the Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco." Collingwood notes, with a laugh, that one of her most interesting requests came from a client who ordered the company's "Super Spotter"...in order to clean 28 teddy bears! She encourages Chamber businesses to contact her for a free sample.

Collingwood Carpet Care is thrilled to be a new chamber member and is looking forward to offering other chamber members the highest quality cleaning services available for your carpets and furniture. Sandra is excited to join the Diplomat Committee and is eager to visit with you at the next ribbon cutting and mixer...just look for the lady in polka-dots! You may learn more by logging onto the company's website at www.collingwoodcarpetcare.com, emailing her at sandracoll@aol.com or by calling her at in Salinas at 455-2034 or 373-5352 in Monterey. Collingwood Carpet Care, "The Healthy Way to Clean your Carpets and Upholstery".