

Inspection Checklist: Carpet and Carpet Cushions with Volatile Organic Compounds

Does your business sell carpet or carpet cushions with volatile organic compounds?

Definition: Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.

Definition: Carpet is any heavy fabric that covers a floor. It can be made from natural and/or synthetic fibers and includes the carpet backing (the material attached to the bottom of the carpet for reinforcement).

Definition: Carpet cushion is any padding put underneath carpet before it is installed.

Use this checklist to learn what our inspectors look for and help avoid violations. All businesses also must comply with the General Retail Inspection Checklist, which is included at the end for easy reference.

For your convenience, each Requirement includes the relevant section of law and/or rule, so you can refer to it for more information. The KEY below describes the legal citations and symbols used in this checklist.

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| KEY |
| NYC Code: NYC Administrative Code |
| RCNY: Rules of the City of New York |
| §: Section |

| Requirement | | Do you meet this requirement? |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| General | | |
| 1 | All in-stock carpet and carpet cushion must have the original manufacturers' labels attached. NYC Code §17-1405 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Signage | | |
| 2 | The following notice must be posted at each register where carpets are sold where consumers can see it: NOTICE NEW YORK CITY CARPET EMISSION LIMITS After July 1, 2013, carpet sellers may only sell carpet or carpet cushion that complies with New York City laws for volatile organic compound (VOC) emission limits. Carpet installers, building owners and occupants may only install VOC-compliant carpet or carpet cushion in any building. A carpet business must provide documentation showing VOC compliance upon customer request. Call 311 if the carpet seller or installer does not give you this information. Keep your receipt to help track product information. Tip: The notice must be 8½ x 14 inches and the letters must be at least ½ inch high. Tip: The sign can be downloaded and printed from nyc.gov/BusinessToolbox . 24 RCNY §30-04(a)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

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| Requirement | | Do you meet this requirement? |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 3 | A refund policy must be posted at each register, point of sale, or at each entrance. Tip: Even if the policy is not to give refunds, a sign must be posted stating "No Refunds." | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 6 RCNY §5-37 | |
| Receipts | | |
| 4 | A receipt must be given to a customer who purchases carpet or carpet cushion. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 24 RCNY §30-03(d) | |
| 5 | The receipt must include all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of purchase • Legal name and address of the seller • Name of the manufacturer • Brand name • Style name or number • Model name or number of the carpet or carpet cushion purchased • Amount paid for each item • Total amount paid • Tax charged (tax statement either can be total amount of tax or the tax charged for each item) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 6 RCNY §5-32(c) | |

Inspection Checklist: General Retail

Does your business sell goods or services?

Use this checklist to learn what our inspectors look for and help avoid violations. For your convenience, each Requirement includes the relevant section of law and/or rule, so you can refer to it for more information. The KEY below describes the legal citations and symbols used in this checklist.

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| Requirement | Do you meet this requirement? |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Price Lists for Services | |
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| A price list with the types of services and the prices of those services must be displayed. 6 RCNY §5-70(a) | |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| The price list must be clearly posted or clearly displayed near the cash register and/or at the place(s) where orders are placed. 6 RCNY §5-70(a) | |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| If the price list states a minimum charge (e.g., “from \$...”) or states a price “and up,” it must state the reason for the different prices and include the range of prices. 6 RCNY §5-70(a) | |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| If there is a sale or promotion, the pre-sale prices must also be posted for comparison. NYC Code §20-750(b) | |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Prices for services cannot be based on gender. Tip: Words like “men’s,” “women’s,” and “ladies” cannot be used to describe the price; the difference must be described in a gender neutral way. (Example: Above the shoulder hair = \$15; Below the shoulder hair = \$30) Tip: Instead of listing prices for shirts and blouses, the price must be described based on physical differences between the shirts. (Example: sequins, ruffles, fancy buttons) NYC Code §20-750(c) | |
| | |
| Pricing for Goods | |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| All items offered for sale must have a clearly visible price. NYC Code §20-708 | |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| For most items, the price must be attached to the item or on a sign where the item is displayed. NYC Code §20-708 | |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| If your store’s annual revenue is more than \$2 million or you are a chain store, you must individually price most food products, as well as paper products, detergents, soaps, nonprescription drugs, and health and beauty aids. NYC Code §20-708.1(b) | |

Inspection Checklist: General Retail

| Requirement | Do you meet this requirement? |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <p>9 Milk; eggs; fresh produce; snack foods that are less than 5 ounces; frozen foods; jars of baby food; and items that are less than 3 cubic inches, under 3 ounces and under \$1 do not have to be individually priced, but must have shelf prices.</p> <p>NYC Code §20-708.1(b)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Signs | |
| <p>10 Sale signs that advertise a percent discount—example: 20-50% off—must state the minimum percent discount.</p> <p>Tip: Both the minimum and maximum numbers must be of equal size.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>20-50% OFF</p> </div> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>20-50% OFF</p> </div> </div> <p>6 RCNY §5-94(a)(1)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <p>11 Sale signs cannot contain any of the following phrases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Our list price” • Below “manufacturer’s wholesale cost” • “Manufacturer’s cost” <p>6 RCNY §5-101</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <p>12 Businesses that sell goods and services must post a refund policy.</p> <p>Tip: A refund policy must be posted at each register, point of sale, or at each entrance.</p> <p>Tip: Even if the policy is not to give refunds, a sign must be posted stating “No Refunds.”</p> <p>6 RCNY §5-37</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <p>13 The refund policy must state any and all conditions or limitations to getting a refund. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses must disclose any fees charged for refunds, such as “restocking fees.” • If a business will not provide refunds for “as is” items, it must disclose that. • Businesses must also disclose whether the refund will be in cash, credit, or store credit only. • If proof of purchase is required for a refund, the sign must say so. • A business that chooses not to offer refunds must post a sign that states, “No Refund,” or words to that effect. • The sign must state that a written copy of the store’s refund policy is available on request. <p>6 RCNY §5-37</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

Inspection Checklist: General Retail

| Requirement | | Do you meet this requirement? |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 14 | If there are limitations on using credit cards, such as minimum purchase amounts, the policy must be clearly posted at the point of sale or at each entrance. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 6 RCNY §5-24(b) | |
| Receipts | | |
| 15 | Receipts must be given to customers for purchases over \$20 and upon request for purchases between \$5 and \$20. Tip: This does not apply to food and drink that is meant to be consumed on the premises. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 6 RCNY §5-32(b)(2) | |
| 16 | The receipt must include each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of purchase • Amount paid for each item • Total amount paid • Separate statement of tax • Name and address of store | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 6 RCNY §5-32(c) | |
| 17 | Receipts for electronics that cost more than \$100 must also include the make and model number of the item. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | 6 RCNY §5-32(c)(5) | |
| Price Accuracy | | |
| 18 | When items are scanned, the price must match the lowest item price, shelf price, sale price, or advertised price. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | NYC Code §20-708.1(d) | |
| 19 | If no scanners are used, the price at checkout must still match the lowest item price, shelf price, sale price, or advertised price. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | NYC Code §20-708.1(e) | |
| 20 | Tax cannot be charged on tax-exempt items. Tip: Check with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for a complete list of which items are exempt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | NYC Code §20-700 | |

Inspection Checklist: General Retail

| Requirement | Do you meet this requirement? |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Layaway Plans | |
| <p>21 If layaway is offered, each of the following written disclosures must be provided to consumers prior to accepting any payments over \$50 in 4 installments or more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the item, including name, brand, color, and model number • Total cost of the item including tax • Charge to use layaway and any cancellation fee • Duration of the layaway plan • Payment schedule and any consequences of missed payments • Refund policy • Notice of whether or not the item won't be removed from inventory until a certain number of payments have been made <p><i>Example 1:</i> NOTICE: NO MERCHANDISE WILL BE REMOVED FROM INVENTORY UNTIL X% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE HAS BEEN PAID.</p> <p><i>Example 2:</i> ATTENTION: YOUR SELECTION OF MERCHANDISE WILL NOT BE ORDERED UNTIL YOU HAVE MADE YOUR NEXT TO FINAL PAYMENT.</p> <p>6 RCNY §5-23</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Expired Over-the-counter Medication | |
| <p>22 It is illegal to sell over-the-counter medication after the expiration date on the label.</p> <p>NYC Code §20-822(a)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

New York City businesses must comply with all relevant federal, State, and City laws and rules, which are available in DCA's Business Toolbox. Businesses are responsible for knowing and complying with current regulations that affect their business.