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EC62-1159 Common Stains - How to Remove them

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COMMON STAINS—How to Remove Them

Products and methods for removing stains, vary greatly for washable and non-washable fabrics. The suggestions in this circular apply only to those fabrics which can be washed.



DO'S and DON'TS

DO treat stains immediately. Heat, soaps, water and age often set stains permanently.

DON'T attempt to remove a stain until you can identify it. Wrong treatment may set it permanently. Rather than take a chance, consult a dry cleaner.

DO test selected remover and method on an unexposed area of the article or on a scrap of the fabric.

DON'T guess at a removal method. Choose the remover and method according to the stain, fabric and finish.

DO use bleaches and common stain removers according to manufacturer's directions.

DON'T ignore and destroy hangtags on readymades. Many give important laundering and cleaning instructions.

DO work in a well ventilated area, because fumes or vapors of many substances are poisonous or injurious. Solvent vapors tend to settle unless there is forced ventilation. Keep children off the floor.

DON'T breathe solvent vapors or get chemicals near the face. They are poisonous.

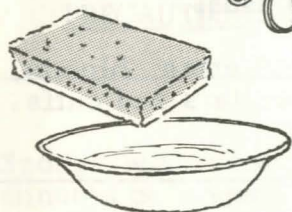
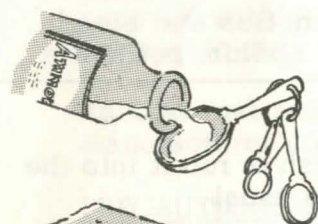
DO keep children away from the area where solvents are being used.

DON'T use solvents near open flames, electrical outlets, and lighted cigarettes.

DO use removers sparingly; keep containers stoppered.

DON'T forget that dark colors, reds and blues particularly, are seldom completely colorfast. Avoid using bleach directly on fabric lest spotting develops.

DO store all stain removers in a cool dry place, out of reach of children.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS,
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN; J. L. ADAMS, DIRECTOR

GROUP I

ACID STAINS

Citrus fruit
Perspiration
(fresh)
Wine

Rinse or sponge with cool water; then neutralize the acid by applying a paste of baking soda and water; OR dilute ammonia water, (1/4 cup ammonia to 2 1/2 cups water) to both sides of the fabric. Rinse thoroughly with cool water.

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GROUP II

ALKALI STAINS

Perspiration
(aged)

Rinse or sponge the stain thoroughly with cool water. Then neutralize the alkali by applying a dilute acid such as white vinegar or lemon juice. Rinse with cool water. For stubborn stains, apply a bleach.

EXCEPTIONS:

On resin treated fabrics, rayons, synthetics and blends, do not use a chlorine bleach. Use a sodium perborate.

GROUP III

OILY & GREASY STAINS

Codliver oil
Food fats
Lubricating oils

Apply concentrated liquid detergent with a brush or rub it into the spot. Rinse with cool water. Then launder as usual.

This method is especially effective on synthetics, blends, resin-treated fabrics, embedded stains on collars and cuffs.

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GROUP IV

WAX STAINS

Candle wax
Crayons
Floor wax
Lipstick
Paraffin

Scrape off as much wax as possible with a dull knife. Then place between several layers of facial tissues and press with a warm iron. For any remaining wax stain, sponge with a drycleaning solvent. If a color stain remains use a sodium perborate bleach. Rinse thoroughly. Launder.

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GROUP V

WATER-BORNE STAINS CONTAINING PROTEINS

Blood
Chocolate
Cream & milk
Egg
Gravy
Ice Cream
Mayonnaise
Vomit

Sponge with cool water or soak in cool water for 30 minutes. Rub concentrated liquid syndet on the stain. Rinse thoroughly with cool water and allow to dry. If greasy stains remain, sponge with a dry cleaning solvent. Allow to dry. Repeat if necessary.

An alternate method for removing blood stains is to cover the area with unseasoned meat tenderizer. Then apply cool water to make a paste. After 15 - 30 minutes rinse with cool water. Launder.

If color stain remains use a bleach according to fabric content and finish.

PRECAUTION: Always begin with cool water. Hot water sets protein stains.

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Permanent Writing Ink:

Rinse in warm water; then soak for several hours. Rub with liquid dishwashing syndet or soapless shampoo and rinse with cool water. If a color stain remains, use a bleach suitable to the fabric. If a yellow stain remains, treat it for iron rust.

Ballpoint Ink:

For fresh stains on acetate, Arnel, Dynel and Verel, sponge with amyl acetate. On other fabrics sponge with acetone. Old stains may require bleaching. Bleach according to fabric.

Some ballpoint inks are set by water. Test for washability by marking on a scrap of similar fabric and then washing.

Iron Rust:

Sprinkle with salt and moisten with lemon juice. Spread in the sun to dry. Repeat if necessary.

Special rust removers are available at drug stores. Follow manufacturer's directions.

PRECAUTION: Do not use household bleach on rust stains.



Sponge with cool water; or soak stain in cool water for 30 minutes or longer. If stain remains, work a mild syndet into it and rinse. If stain persists use a bleach suitable to the fabric.

EXCEPTIONS:

Fresh cherries, plums, peaches, pears: Sponge with cool water. Rub in glycerine or soapless shampoo. Allow to stand for an hour or more. Apply a small amount of white vinegar. Let stand a few minutes; rinse thoroughly in cool water.

Grass:

Rub with concentrated liquid syndet and let stand a few minutes. Rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water. Treat any remaining stain by working in glycerine, mineral oil, or unsalted fat. Remove with a drycleaning solvent. Launder.

PRECAUTION: Do not use glycerine or oils on resin-finished fabrics. If syndet does not remove stain consult a dry cleaner.

Mildew:

Laundering will usually remove fresh stains. Dry in the sun.

If slight stains remain after laundering, moisten with lemon juice and salt and dry in the sun. For heavier or old stains use iron rust soap.

Mud:

Let dry; brush well. Then use general method for removing water-borne stains containing colorants.

GROUP VI

STAINS CONTAINING METALLIC SALTS

Ink (permanent &
Ballpoint)

Rust (iron)

GROUP VII

WATER-BORNE STAINS CONTAINING COLORANTS

Coffee (clear)
Fruit juices
Ink (washable)
Scorch (slight)
Soft drinks
Tea (clear)

A stain removal kit for home use can be easily assembled. The following supplies are appropriate for washable fabrics:

SUPPLIES FOR STAIN REMOVAL KIT

P R O D U C T	S O U R C E		A M O U N T T O B U Y
	Drug	Grocery	
Acetone	x		4 ounces
Ammonia		x	1 bottle
Amyl acetate	x		4 ounces
Baking Soda		x	1 box
Chlorine bleach		x	1 bottle or box
Drycleaning solvent	x	x	1 bottle
Facial tissue	x	x	1 box
Glycerine (or mineral oil or unsalted fat)	x	x	1/2 pint
Iron rust soap	x		1 tube
Lemon juice		x	
Meat tenderizer (unseasoned)		x	1 bottle
Salt		x	
Sodium perborate		x	1 box
Syndets:			
Dishwashing (mild)		x	
General purpose (concentrated)		x	
Soapless shampoo	x	x	
White Vinegar		x	1 pint

REFERENCES

Home Methods of Stain Removal, Extension Bulletin 984, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

How to Prevent and Remove Mildew, USDA Home & Garden Bulletin 68, Washington, D.C.

Removing Stains from Fabrics, USDA Home & Garden Bulletin 62, Washington, D.C.

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