

Removing Individual Stains

Acids

Act quickly when an acid has been spilled, for it may damage the cloth or destroy the color. First, wash the stain with cold water to stop the action of the acid. Rinse several times in cold water; then apply ammonia water baking soda. Water alone will not restore color, but ammonia water may.

Baking soda.—Sprinkle soda on both sides of the stain, moisten with water, and allow to stand until the bubbling stops. Rinse well with water.

Ammonia water.—Hold the dampened stain over an open bottle of strong ammonia water; or if the material doesn't water-spot, put a few drops of ammonia water, diluted to half strength on the stain. Since ammonia water affects some dyes, have white vinegar ready to apply quickly if the color changes. Rinse well with water.

Adhesive Tape

Sponge or soak the stain in carbon tetrachloride, benzene, or kerosene. Kerosene will make the cloth oily, so wash in warm suds after the treatment.

Alcoholic Beverages and Soft Drinks

Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks may cause tannin stains. Fresh tannin stains are almost colorless, but if they are allowed to stand or are washed in soap and water or heated as in ironing and pressing, they turn brown and are almost impossible to remove. Fresh stains can be removed as follows:

Cold water and glycerine.—Sponge the stain with water or with a mixture of equal parts alcohol and water. Then pour glycerine on the stain and rub between the hands. Let stand for a half hour and rinse with water.

Acetic acid.—If the above treatment does not remove the stain, apply a 10-percent solution of acetic acid with a medicine dropper and let stand a few seconds. Rinse and repeat if necessary. Stop the action of the acid with baking soda or ammonia (see above) and spread the garment in the sun.

Bleaches.—The last traces of stains on white materials can sometimes be removed by bleaching. Use one of the following:

Hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate.—Sponge lightly with hydrogen peroxide or with a mixture of 1 level teaspoon sodium perborate to 1 pint hydrogen peroxide. If this does not remove stain, cover dampened spot with powdered sodium perborate and let stand an hour. Rinse in water.

Javelle water.—For stains on uncolored cotton or linen material, dip in Javelle water for 1 minute (no longer), remove the chlorine from the cloth with a sodium thiosulfate solution, rinse well in water. (See p. 6 for more detailed instructions.) Do not use Javelle water to remove stains from colored materials or from silk or wool.

Alkalies

Remove alkali spots at once; they may destroy not only the color but the material as well. First sponge or rinse the spot thoroughly with cold water. This generally is sufficient for mild alkalies such as washing soda and weak ammonia water. But to be on the safe side and to help restore color, apply an acid—this stops the action of the alkali. Then rinse or sponge the spot thoroughly with water. Use any of the following mild acids:

Lemon juice.—Squeeze the juice on the stain, and allow it to remain until the juice loses its bright yellow color. Sponge or rinse well with water.

Vinegar.—Sponge with vinegar; then rinse in cold water.

Acetic acid.—Apply a few drops of a 10-percent solution of acetic acid with a medicine dropper or a glass rod and remove the excess by rinsing or sponging with water.

Argyrol

Argyrol stains must be treated while still fresh. Proceed as follows:

Pepsin.—Sponge with warm water to remove any argyrol that has not soaked into the cloth. Then sprinkle powdered pepsin over the dampened stain. Work it well into the cloth, let stand a half hour or longer, then sponge with water.

Iodine and sodium thiosulfate ("hypo").—After the above treatment, put a few drops of tincture of iodine on the dampened stain with a glass rod. Let stand for 10 or 15 minutes; then sponge with a solution prepared by dissolving several crystals of sodium thiosulfate in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water. Rinse well in water.

To bring back the color changed by an acid, hold the dampened stain in the fumes from an open bottle of ammonia water.

