

Blood

Blood stains will usually come out if sponged or washed in cold or lukewarm water first. Never use hot water; it sets the stain.

Cold or lukewarm water.—For stains on silk or wool, sponge with cold or lukewarm water. For washable material, soak the stains in cold water until they turn light brown in color; then wash in warm soapy water. If the stain is an old one and has dried, it may help to add 2 tablespoons of ammonia water to each gallon of water used for soaking. Strong salt water (about 2 cups of salt to 1 gallon water) is also good to loosen the stain.

Hydrogen peroxide and sodium perborate.—If the above treatment does not completely remove the stain, sponge with hydrogen peroxide. Or sponge with a mixture of 1 level teaspoon sodium perborate to 1 pint hydrogen peroxide. If the stain still shows, cover the dampened spot with powdered sodium perborate and let stand an hour. Rinse thoroughly. These bleaches will not harm the cloth, but before using test for colorfastness on a sample of cloth or on an inner seam of the garment. If the color fades, do not use the bleaches; just dampen the stain and spread in the sun to bleach.

Starch.—Use a starch paste to remove stains on thick materials, such as flannel and blankets, which cannot be soaked in water. Mix raw starch to a paste with cold water, apply the paste thickly to the stain, and brush it away when it dries. Repeat the treatment until the stain disappears.

Bluing

Soak fresh stains or rinse them in cold water. Or wash the stained article with plenty of warm soapy water, rubbing thoroughly.

Candle Wax, Colored

Scrape away as much wax as possible with a dull knife. Then treat as follows:

Blotting paper.—Place the stain between clean white blotters, cleansing tissues, or paper towels, and press with a warm iron, changing the blotters as they become soiled. Then sponge with carbon tetrachloride or other grease solvent.

Denatured alcohol.—If a color stain remains, sponge with liquid made up of 1 cup denatured alcohol and 2 cups water.

Candy

Laundry in warm soapy water if the material is washable. Otherwise, sponge with clear warm water.

If dye or chocolate stains remain, follow instructions given under Dyes and Running Colors, page 14, or Chocolate and Cocoa, page 13.

Carbon Paper

Carbon-paper stains usually can be removed by washing in a heavy suds of soap and water. Sponge unwashable materials with a liquid of 1 cup alcohol and 2 cups water; then sponge with cold water.

Chewing Gum

Use one of the following methods:

Ice.—If the material will not water-spot, rub the gum stain with ice. Then scrape and rub the hardened gum out of the cloth. This method is particularly good for rugs and other heavy materials.

Egg white.—If the material is washable, soften the gum stain with egg white and then wash.

Carbon tetrachloride, kerosene, or turpentine.—Soak the stain in carbon tetrachloride, kerosene, or turpentine. If kerosene is used, wash in warm soapy water afterwards.

Chocolate and Cocoa

It may be necessary to try more than one method to remove chocolate and cocoa stains, since they usually contain other substances such as fat, milk, starch, and sugar. First scrape off as much of the stain as possible with a dull knife; then try one of the following:

Soap and warm water.—If the material is washable the regular laundering in warm soapy water will often remove this stain.

Hydrogen peroxide and sodium perborate.—Sponge stubborn stains with hydrogen peroxide. Or use a mixture of 1 level teaspoon sodium perborate to 1 pint hydrogen peroxide. If the stain still shows, cover the dampened spot with powdered sodium perborate and let stand an hour. Rinse thoroughly. Be sure to test for color change on a sample of the cloth or on the inside of hem or seam of the garment before using these bleaches on the stain.

Carbon tetrachloride and pepsin.—If the cloth is not washable sponge with carbon tetrachloride to dissolve the grease. Dry thoroughly, then sponge with warm water, and dust with pepsin powder. Work the powder into the cloth, let stand for 30 minutes or longer, then sponge with water.

Cod-liver Oil

Fresh cod-liver oil stains are almost colorless and are easy to remove. But old stains, especially if the material has been washed or ironed, are a light brown and are almost impossible to remove, even with bleaches. Treat fresh stains with either of the following:

Grease solvents.—Sponge or dip fresh cod-liver oil stains in carbon tetrachloride, benzene, Stoddard solvent, or gasoline. When the cod-liver oil has been removed, sponge with warm soapy water.