Ask Nancy...

Stain Removal Answers To Common Care Questions

A Word About Stains

There’s no escaping it:

Fresh stains are easier to remove than old ones.
Avoid machine drying or ironing until you’ve exhausted all stain removal efforts.

Time and heat can set some stains permanently.

Laundry tests show using Clorox® bleach for stain removal produces the best results.

For washable, non-colorfast clothes substitute powdered or liquid color-safe bleach, like Ultra Clorox® 2®.

Don’t forget the prewash soil and stain removers like Clorox® Oxi Magic® stain remover, that release stains and help detergents work more effectively.

Milk or Egg Products

Rinse well in cool water. Presoak with detergent and powdered Ultra Clorox® 2® in cool or warm water. Follow package directions for dis-solving bleach. Launder in cold water with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach.

Blood

Rinse in cool water and pre-treat with Clorox Oxi Magic stain remover or Ultra Clorox 2. Rinse and repeat if necessary. Launder in cool water with Clorox liquid bleach. Be sure to test for colorfastness. If fabric is not colorfast to regular bleach substitute Ultra Clorox 2.

Candle Wax

Harden the wax by either applying ice or placing the garment in the freezer. Scrape off as much of the frozen wax as possible, then launder with Ultra Clorox 2 and detergent in the hottest water recommended for the fabric. Repeat the laundering procedure until all the color from the wax is gone. Do not dry the garment until the wax color is completely removed.

Baby Formula

Soak in cool water. Pretreat with Stain Out or bar soap and rub gently. Wash with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach, or Ultra Clorox 2.

Ink- Ballpoint

Apply Clorox Oxi Magic stain remover or rubbing alcohol. Rub on detergent and launder with powdered or liquid color-safe bleach and detergent in hottest water recommended for fabric. Repeat if necessary.

Ink- Felt Pen

May be impossible to remove. Apply Clorox Oxi Magic stain remover and rub on detergent. Rinse. Repeat as necessary. Launder with Ultra Clorox liquid bleach and detergent in hottest water recommended for fabric.

Perspiration, Deodorants

Launder with Clorox liquid bleach and detergent in hottest water recommended for fabric. If stain has caused color change, try to restore by using ammonia on fresh stains, vinegar on old stains. Do not use ammonia or vinegar with liquid bleach.

Yellowing Dinginess

Launder garment in the hottest water recommended for the fabric with Clorox liquid bleach and detergent. If the garment is not colorfast in regular bleach substitute Ultra Clorox 2.

Pollen

Vacuum, do not brush, as much of the pollen from the garment as possible. Pre-treat the area with Ultra Clorox 2. Launder normally with Ultra Clorox 2 and detergent.

Grass

Apply Clorox Oxi Magic stain remover and rub gently into stain; let sit 5 minutes. Then wash with detergent and Clorox bleach or Ultra Clorox 2 in the hottest water safe for fabric.

Makeup

Apply prewash stain remover such as Clorox Oxi Magic and gently rub into the stain; let sit for 5 minutes. Then wash with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach or Ultra Clorox 2 in the hottest water the fabric will tolerate.

Scorching

If the damage is severe it may be permanent. Mild scorching can be treated to improve the color by brushing the scorch area and pre-treating it with detergent or Ultra Clorox 2. Then launder normally in detergent and Ultra Clorox 2.

Coffee, Tea, Wine, Soft Drinks

Pretreat with liquid Ultra Clorox 2. Launder right away with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach in hottest water recommended for fabric.

Mildew

Mildew can damage the cellulosic structure of fibers as well as many man-made fibers. If the fabric shows no sign of permanent damage treat the mildew by first brushing the area to remove as much of the organism as possible. Pre-treat the area by rubbing with Ultra Clorox 2. Launder in the hottest water recommended for the fabric plus Clorox liquid bleach. Test for colorfastness. If the garment is not safe in chlorine bleach substitute Ultra Clorox 2.

Grease, Butter, Margarine, Oil, Mayonnaise, Ice Cream, Chocolate, Cosmetics

Apply Clorox Oxi Magic stain remover stain remover and rub into stain. Launder with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach in hottest water recommended for fabric.

Gravy, Mustard, Ketchup and Other Tomato-based Products

Presoak in powdered Ultra Clorox 2 and detergent in warm or hot water. Launder with detergent and Ultra Clorox liquid bleach. If oily stains remains, use Clorox Oxi Magic stain remover on stain and launder again.

Crayons

To remove crayola stains, the Crayola Company recommends: Place the stained surface down on a pad of paper towels, spray with WD-40, and let stand for a few minutes. Turn the fabric over and spray the other side. Apply liquid dishwashing detergent and work into the stained area. Replace towels as they absorb the stain. Wash in hot water with a laundry detergent and bleach for about 12 minutes (use “heavy soiled” setting if there is no minute timer on your machine), and rinse in warm water.

Fruit-Flavored Drinks, Juices

Soak in cool water. Rub bar soap into the stain or pretreat with liquid Ultra Clorox 2. Wash right away with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach or Ultra Clorox 2 in hottest water recommended for fabric.

Dye That Bleeds

Dye transfer is caused when unstable dye colors “bleed” from one fabric to another. Their removal is often difficult. To minimize problem, sort loads by color, and always remove clothes from washer as soon as rinse cycle is complete. Re-launder affected items right away with detergent and Clorox liquid bleach. If color remains (on all-white fabrics only) use a packaged color remover or stripper sold under the “Rit” label.

Diaper Stains, Vomit

Rinse off soils. Follow pressoak instructions (see sidebar). Launder in hottest water safe for fabric with appropriate bleach. To kill bacteria that contribute to diaper rash, add liquid bleach to the wash cycle.

Vitamins, Liquid Pain Relievers

Pretreat and let sit for 5 minutes. Launder in hottest water possible, using appropriate bleach.

Mayonnaise, Mustard, Salad Dressing

Pretreat, launder in hottest water safe for fabric, using appropriate bleach.

Sorting Clothes Avoids Most Laundry Problems

Even in an all-baby clothes washload it’s important to sort clothing to prevent more work for you later. Sort loads by:

Color

Whites and pastels together, Same-color brights, Dark colors together, Multicolored clothes that have lots of white and dark colors are best washed separately first time. If the dye does not bleed or run it can be washed along with whites the next time.

Fabric Type

Separate delicate or lightweight fabrics from heavy ones, Lint producers (towels) from lint attractants (corduroy).

Heavily Soiled

These clothes need special treatment. Always wash soiled diapers separately because they have very high levels of bacteria.

More useful information continues on the next page > > >

Developed by Textile Industry Affairs
The Benefits Laundry Additives

Bleach
You can keep washables whiter and brighter longer when bleach is used in every washload. Choosing the right bleach is easy:

Household liquid bleach, identified by the words “sodium hypochlorite” in the ingredient listing is the only bleach that disinfects. It also is the most effective bleach for stain removal and whitening. This is the bleach of choice for whites and colorfast garments.

It pays to do the bleach-safe test when you think a garment should be bleachable. Clorox laundry studies confirm that about 52% of all washables are actually safe with household liquid bleach.

Other laundry studies show how liquid bleach is safe for fabrics, when used as directed. This bleach does not wear down fabrics any more than detergent alone, washload after washload.

Color-Safe Bleach is, quite simply, a bleach that is safe to use on washable, colored clothes. These bleaches, available in powder and liquids, remove stains and help keep colors bright. The powdered bleaches also have enzymes to break up tough protein stains, which is why they make an excellent prewash.

A color-safe bleach is not a diluted bleach. The gentle bleaching action in liquids is from hydrogen peroxide. Powders commonly use sodium perborate.

These color-safe bleaches also have optical brighteners. This ingredient is like an invisible layer on fabrics. It reflects light, making colors appear brighter and whites whiter.

Adding bleach to your washer
Many washing machines today are equipped with convenient automatic bleach dispensers for household liquid bleach. If a washer is not equipped with a liquid bleach dispenser follow either of these two methods:

1. For maximum cleaning results...
   - Add detergent as washer fills, then add clothes.
   - After machine has agitated for 5 minutes, add household liquid bleach that has been diluted in 1 quart of water. Avoid pouring mixture directly onto clothes.
   Note: Always use this method when using detergent with bleach products.

2. Convenient and effective...
   - While the machine fills with water, pour in liquid bleach and detergent.
   - Once agitation begins, add clothes.

Prewash Soil and Stain Removers:

These products are formulated to help get clothes stain free. Their special detergents and enzymes penetrate stains and break them up, helping detergents work more effectively to wash stains away.

Fabric Softeners:

Fabric Softeners help reduce static cling, minimize wrinkling and soften clothes. Rinse-added softeners are added to the final rinse cycle. These can be added automatically in washers equipped with a fabric softener dispenser. Otherwise, rinsed softener must be added manually to the final rinse. Dryer sheets are convenient to use with one sheet added to the dryer along with the clothes.

Colorfast test for chlorine bleach: Solution:

Combine one part Clorox® Ultra Liquid Bleach with five parts water.

Procedure:

1. Apply one drop of solution to an inconspicuous area of the garment and allow it to saturate the fabric. Blot if necessary to ensure penetration.
2. Let the sample stand for one minute, then rinse and blot dry.
3. Visually evaluate for color change.

Colorfast test for oxygen bleach: Solution:

Undiluted Liquid Ultra Clorox 2.

Procedure:

1. Place a drop of Ultra Clorox 2 on the color to be tested in an inconspicuous area of the garment. Blot if necessary to ensure penetration.
2. Let the sample stand for one minute
3. Rinse thoroughly and let the dampened area dry thoroughly

Looking for more stain removal and clothing care help?

Email you questions to: asknancy@TextileAffairs.com or fax them to: 843-449-9845

We will do everything we can to assist you.

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