

TO REMOVE STAINS

STAINS OF ANY SORT YIELD TO SCIENTIFIC TREATMENT

To Remove Acid Stains

Stains from an acid will usually disappear under a bath of alcohol.

To Remove Blood Stains

First wet the spot thoroughly with cold water, keeping it wet for several hours. Then use hot water, and if the stains still remain it is because the iron in the blood has not responded to the water treatment. Iron becomes soluble in ammonia, therefore sponge with a weak solution of ammonia and water. Should the spots not disappear, then consult a professional cleaner.

When old or set a very thick paste made from starch and water should be laid on both sides of the stain and allowed to remain there until perfectly dry, when it can be shaken off.

To Remove Chocolate Stains

The stains from chocolate are not so easy to remove. Soak in lukewarm water, which is to be renewed as occasion requires.

To Remove Coffee Stains

Coffee spots should be soaked in cold water until they disappear, changing the water as often as it becomes much discolored.

To Remove Color from Ostrich Feathers

Wash the feather in warm water, then fill it full of soap and lay it in a pan of hot water (not boiling) for about thirty minutes. Take it out and you will find that the former color is about all gone; then re-dye the color you wish.

To Remove Fruit Stains

When fruit stains are fresh pour boiling water steadily through them and they will usually disappear. If the water is hard, borax or ammonia in a small quantity should be added to the water.

Fruit and Wine Stains

Fruit and wine stains, if dry, should be soaked in cold water, like

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tea stains. Then stretch the stained fabric over a basin, rub with common salt and pour boiling water through the stain. Or it can be rubbed with lemon, instead of using boiling water. Repeat, if necessary, and if all is not removed let the rest wear out. Some fruit and wine stains, especially those of apple and pear, and some clarets, are very difficult to remove. If they are boiled gently (after soaking) in some strong borax and water, well rinsed, then hung out in the sunshine, or better, left hanging out during a frosty night, the stains will disappear. The articles should be dripping wet when hung out.

To Remove Grass Stains

Grass stains will yield to the cologne application, though a thorough bath in alcohol is, perhaps, more certain.

Kerosene is another liquid that may be applied successfully to grass stains, while some recommend covering the spots with a paste made from cream of tartar and water.

This should not be used in the case of colored goods, as the color is likely to disappear.

Grease Spot on a Parasol

You may get rid of the grease spot by laying on hot French chalk. This will dissolve and absorb the grease. Next, the parasol should be opened and then thoroughly washed with gasoline and white soap all over its surface, more particularly on the soiled places.

Afterward sponge off with clear gasoline. By going over every part of the parasol there will be no danger of spots or streaks and gasoline will not harm it. Keep away from fire or artificial light during this process.

To Remove Grease from Wood

If grease is spilled on the kitchen floor or table do not scrub it with hot water, as the natural inclination is to do, for this only soaks it in deeper. Instead sprinkle a little soda over the spots, and scrub with cold water. In this way the spot does not spread nor soak in, and is removed much more quickly.

To Remove Grease Stains from Cotton or Linen

A grease stain on cotton or linen will usually yield to the treatment of a mixture of Fuller's earth and pipeclay in equal quantities.

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To Remove Grease Stains from Silk

When any greasy substance has been dropped upon silk it can be abstracted by mixing French chalk with methylated spirits to the consistency of cream, laying it upon the stain, then covering with a brown paper and pressing with a warm iron.

On Silk

French chalk removes grease and does not injure colored silks. Scrape a little on the spot, rub it in, let it stand twenty-four hours, then brush off and repeat the process if necessary, for grease is often hard to remove.

Grease Stains

Grease stains will dissolve readily in ether, benzine, gasoline, chloroform, kerosene and naphtha, and sometime in turpentine and hot alcohol. Most of these solvents are inflammable, and some are explosive, hence they should never be used near a light or a fire.

Ordinary grease or gravy stains on table linen may be removed by rubbing in hot water and soap. This should be done before the linen is put to soak, or it may be done during the washing. These stains, unless well washed out, will appear again when the linen is ironed. Grease marks on colored material may be removed by placing the stained part over a cloth and rubbing it with benzine, beginning at the outer edge of the stain and working towards the center. This prevents the stain spreading and forming a wavy mark on the material when dry. The cloth placed under the stain absorbs the grease and aids in cleaning the fabric. Another method is to place a piece of blotting paper over the stain and pass a hot iron over it. The paper absorbs the grease and as it gets stained it must be replaced by a fresh piece.

To Remove Stain with Chloroform from Silk

First remove as much of the grease spot as you can by the hot iron method; that is, place clean blotting paper both above and below the stain, then place a warm iron over the paper. The heat will dissolve the grease which the blotting paper will absorb.

Remove the paper, add a fresh supply under the stain and rub with chloroform.

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To Remove Ice Cream Stains

Ice cream stain can be removed by this means, if applied at once: Alcohol may be used instead of the methyalted spirits if there are none of the latter on hand.

A little cologne would answer if no other liquid were available, but water should not be applied.

A bottle of cologne is a most useful article, for it will take away smears if rubbed on as soon as they appear. It can be used alike on white or colored fabrics, cotton or woolen, without the slightest injury.

Ice cream makes a very bad stain, because it has both grease and sugar in its make-up. To remove stains of it from silk, sponge the stained parts with gasoline or chloroform, placing a pad of absorbent cotton or blotting paper under the spots. When dry, sponge with tepid water and a good soap, and then rub with a flannel cloth until dry. This work must be done away from the fire or artificial light.

Use plain strong coffee to remove the stains of ice cream or milk from black clothing. Dip a cloth in the coffee and rub it over the spot. If the coffee is applied as soon as the stain has been made, so much the better.

Removing Ink Stains

In dyeing and cleaning shops ether is used almost exclusively for removing ink from fabrics. It is a powerful cleansing agent, but will destroy materials unless they are well rinsed. Ether will remove perspiration stains, but should be mixed with ammonia and water. One-fourth ether, one-fourth ammonia and one-half water is a good mixture. Rinse and place in the sun.

To Remove Ink Stains

Ink can be taken from white goods with tomatoes if applied freely. Cold milk is good when the stains are fresh, changing the milk as often as necessary. Fresh butter is even a better solvent.

If very obstinate and the material will stand hot water, the stain should be covered with melted tallow, then washed in the usual way.

Oxalic acid will remove any very obstinate stains, but can be used only on white goods, as it will destroy the color. The crystals are dissolved in boiling water and the liquid is applied to the stain. A thorough rinsing in clear water afterward is imperative.

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Iron-Mold and Dry Ink Stains

Iron-mold and dry ink stains may be removed by placing the stained material in a hot solution of salts of sorrel or salt of lemon, and leaving it to steep until they disappear; or by placing the stained part over a basin and pouring boiling water through to moisten the stain, which enables the chemical action to take place more rapidly. Then a small quantity of salt of lemons or salts of sorrel should be placed on the stain and rubbed firmly in, and boiling water again poured through. If the first application does not remove it, the process must be repeated. If the iron-mold is due to old iron rust, neither of the above-mentioned chemicals may remove it successfully. A pinch of oxalic acid, which is a strong chemical, may then have the desired effect. It is used in exactly the same manner as salt of lemons, but it must be used with great care, as it is injurious to fabrics.

To remove ink stains from white material before the ink is quite dry, sprinkle with salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse off the acid and wash at once. When ink stains are dry, but fresh, they may be removed by dipping the stained part in buttermilk, or milk that has been boiled; change the milk frequently, then wash the article well.

To Remove Iron Rust

Spots of iron rust which are so likely to be found on white dresses and aprons may be easily removed in the following way: Place a small lump of cream of tartar on the spot of iron rust, and tie up the dress goods so as to hold the cream of tartar on the spot. Do the same to all the spots of iron rust and put the clothes into the boiler. After boiling, the clothes will be perfectly white and free from spots.

Medicine Stains

As most medicines, especially tinctures, are soluble in alcohol, methylated spirits will often remove the stains from clothes and other utensils. When stains contain silver compounds (to this class belong paints for warts, the throat and nose), any white fabric on which a little compound has been spilt acts like a piece of sensitized paper, and at once darkens on exposure to the light. An effective method is to soak the stain for some time in a tincture of iodine, then treat with a strong solution of hyposulphate of soda; strong

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ammonia will then complete the process. Medicine stains very often yield to alcohol. These stains frequently leave terribly disfiguring discolorations on table and bed linen, and not uncommonly also result in iron mould. They should be spread with a paste made of pulverized Fuller's earth and spirits of hartshorn, allowing the application to dry upon the stain, and finally washing out in cold water. If necessary, the treatment may then be repeated, but one trial is generally sufficient.

To remove medicine stains from spoons, rub with a soft rag dipped in sulphuric acid, wash with soapsuds and polish with a chamois skin.

Iodine is often responsible for stains, and is at once decolorized if sponged with strong ammonia. To remove iodine stains from linen, soak the stain with sweet milk, occasionally rubbing the spot. Alcohol is also considered good for white materials. Another method is to dissolve two drams of hyposulphate of soda in half a tumblerful of water.

Iodine stains come out easily with chloroform, or the cloth may be rubbed with gasoline.

To remove iodine stains, soak the stained part in cold water for half an hour, then cover thickly with common soda, and leave for a few hours. After the usual washing and boiling the stain will entirely disappear.

Mildew

Mildew usually appears on the fibres of cotton and linen; it takes the form of small round dark spots; in reality it is a vegetable growth, or form of fungus, which develops on the fibres of the material. Its appearance is due to dampness, and reflects discredit on the work of the housekeeper, as the clothes must either have been put away damp or kept in a damp cupboard.

Owing to the nature of mildew, it is difficult to remove. One of the simplest remedies is to moisten the stained fabric, rub it thickly with soft soap and sprinkle it with common salt. Place the material on the grass in the sunshine and keep it moist. Renew the treatment each day until the stain disappears.

A quicker method, and a surer one, is to keep the stained part in white material in a solution of bleaching liquor. To prepare the

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bleaching liquor, put half a pound of chlorinated lime into a basin and pour half a gallon of boiling water over it; add two tablespoonfuls of washing soda, and stir to break up all the lumps, and to enable the water to extract all the chlorine. Strain carefully to remove all the powder and so make the liquid clear. Bottle and keep ready for use.

This liquor is used chiefly for the removal of obstinate organic stains, such as dyes, fruit, wine and old tea or coffee stains. But it should only be used for fabrics made from vegetable fibres, such as linen and cotton, as its application to wool and silk proves fatal to the fibres. The solution should never be stronger than one part of the liquor to four parts of hot water.

Milk Stains

Milk stains usually come away readily enough in the ordinary washing process; that is to say, soaking in weak soda water and subsequent washing with soap. Where, however, the material cannot be washed, warm water should be applied locally, followed by weak ammonia.

To Remove Paint Stains

Rub fresh paint with a rag dipped in spirits of turpentine, and if not immediately removed rub the soiled part with both hands, as though the fabric were being washed.

Paint Stains

The ease or difficulty with which these are removed depends on the length of time they have been in the fabric. If done when the paint is wet their removal is more easily accomplished than when left until dry. To remove wet paint from white material, wash the stain with soap and water, then boil in water to which a little kerosene has been added; again rub between the hands, using soap and hot water.

Dry paint on white material can easily be removed by soaking the stain in turpentine to soften the medium which hardens it to the fabric. It should then be rubbed in the turpentine and washed in soap and water, finishing with ordinary washing.

Paint stains that are old and dry may be removed from woolen goods with chloroform. First cover the spot with olive oil or butter.

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When the stain is on a fabric the color of which is apt to be destroyed moisten first with a little oil, then remove with ether.

Scorch Marks

If not too severe scorch marks are most effectually remedied by soaking the part in cold water and exposing to the rays of the sun, moistening afresh as it dries, until the blemish disappears.

To remove scorch from linen, put two ounces of Fuller's earth into a saucepan, add half an ounce of white soap, the juice of two large onions and one cupful of vinegar. Boil together for a few minutes, strain into a jar, and keep covered for future use. Spread on the scorched parts with a knife, and allow it to dry on. The stain will soon disappear. If the garment is scorched with ironing, rub a lump of dry starch on the mark. Then sponge it off. Repeat till the yellow disappears.

Scorching of White Material

Expose the material to the direct rays of the sun for several hours. If there is not time for this, procure some chloride water, dip linen rags into this and rub the spots which are scorched. The marks will disappear.

To Remove Shoe Blacking from Straw

Assuming the blacking to be the "liquid" polish and containing wood alcohol, no doubt a bleach made from oxalic acid dissolved in alcohol will cut the stain, and by repeated applications of clear bleach the spot may be removed. Place an absorbent cloth under spot and then carefully rub with plenty of the alcohol bleach. Don't scour.

General Rules for Removing Stains and Spots

Before putting the article to be cleaned into the gasoline bath, it should be carefully inspected for grease spots and stains. These the gasoline is not pledged to remove. Apply block magnesia or French chalk to grease spots, sponge stains with alcohol or ammonia, and be sure that the spots are gone before putting the garment into the gasoline.

Stains from Garments and Materials

Have plenty of gasoline on hand and conduct operations in a room without a fire. If you can work out-of-doors so much the better.

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Such caution would seem unnecessary, but the columns of the daily papers furnish too many tales of catastrophes resulting from careless use of gasoline to make a warning needless.

Pour a generous supply of gasoline into the vessel in which you wish to do your cleansing and put the soiled articles into it. Cover and leave it a few minutes and then souse the article up and down in the fluid for several minutes. Never rub the goods while in the gasoline, but continue to dip up and down until you can see from the dirt gathering in the bottom of the vessel that much of the soil has been removed. Hang the garment to dry without wringing or squeezing it.

If you are of an economical turn you will pour the gasoline carefully off the dirty sediment in the bottom and put it away to use as the first rinsing medium for some less delicate articles.

Let it stand for ten minutes or so before pouring it off, keeping it covered, as it evaporates quickly. Put in a tightly corked bottle and set in a place away from the fire.

Sometimes an article is so dirty that it requires a second gasoline treatment. In that case use fresh fluid—not that in which it has once been dipped.

To Remove Tea and Coffee Stains

Put the article to soak in cold water. Should the stain not have disappeared after it has soaked an hour, squeeze the water out and stretch over a basin. Sprinkle the stain with powdered borax and pour boiling water through it. Do not put the stain into the hot borax water, as that will set the edge of the mark. The borax may not quite remove the stain, but the rest will in time disappear, especially if the cloth is dried in the open air. Never soap a tea or coffee stain until the article has been soaked in cold water, as soap and hot water will turn the stain into a fast dye if it is dry. To remove coffee stains from woolen and other materials rub thoroughly with pure gasoline. The place should afterwards be well washed with lukewarm water, and ironed on the wrong side till dry.

To Remove Vaseline Stains

Soak first in cold water and then wash in hot soap suds to which washing soda has been added.