

REMOVING STAINS

STAIN	WASHABLES	NON-WASHABLES
GREASE (butter, oil, mayonnaise)	Start with a combination solvent. Follow up with mineral spirits or an oil solvent if necessary.	Use an oil solvent, then dab with cool water; dry flat.
FRUIT & VEGETABLE (juice, jam)	Start with denatured alcohol. Using an eyedropper, flush with vinegar to remove remaining color, then dishwashing detergent to remove residue.	Same as for washables, using water sparingly. Even if you can't see stain, point out area to dry cleaner, since any sugar that remains can caramelize when dry-cleaned.
RED WINE	Use denatured alcohol; then, with an eyedropper, flush with vinegar for remaining color. For sturdy fabric, coat area with salt, hold over a bowl or the sink, and pour very hot water through the fabric from above.	Use denatured alcohol. Dab with vinegar to remove remaining color. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
TEA	Using an eyedropper, flush with lemon juice to remove color, then stronger bleach if necessary. For sugar, flush with water. For milk, follow up with a combination solvent.	Dab with lemon juice to remove color. For sugar, dab with water. For milk, follow up with an oil solvent.
WAX OR GUM	Use ice to freeze wax or gum, or place item in freezer; scrape or crack off as much as you can, then use an oil solvent or mineral spirits to remove residue.	Same as for washables.
SAUCES (tomato, ketchup, barbecue)	Scoop off excess. Use a combination solvent for grease. Then, using an eyedropper, flush with vinegar for color.	Scrape off excess, if necessary. Use an oil solvent for grease, then dab with vinegar for color. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
VINAIGRETTE	Use a combination solvent for grease; then, using an eyedropper, flush with vinegar for color.	Use an oil solvent for grease, then dab with vinegar for color. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
MUD	Shake or scrape off residue. For large areas, presoak in a solution of warm water and laundry detergent. For small areas, use a combination solvent. Follow up with vinegar or peroxide if necessary.	Shake or scrape off residue. Use dishwashing detergent and water sparingly. Dab with vinegar for color.
FELT-TIP INK	Flush with denatured alcohol using an eyedropper; wash with dishwashing detergent.	Rub glycerin into area; let stand fifteen to twenty minutes, then use alcohol. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
PROTEIN (blood, egg, grass)	Soak bloodstains in cold salt water first. Use digestant. If necessary, flush with vinegar or hydrogen peroxide, using an eyedropper, to remove color.	Use dishwashing detergent, dab with cool water, and blot out excess moisture; dry flat.
LIPSTICK	Use a combination solvent to remove grease. Using an eyedropper, flush with vinegar or a mild bleach to remove remaining color.	Use an oil solvent to remove grease. Dab with vinegar to remove remaining color. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
WHITE WINE	Flush with water, and wash as you normally would.	Dab with cool water; dry flat. Point out to dry cleaner, even if spot is not visible, since any sugar that remains can caramelize when dry-cleaned.
COFFEE	Using an eyedropper, flush with vinegar to remove color. For sugar, flush with water. For milk, follow up with a combination solvent.	Dab with vinegar to remove color. For sugar, flush with water. For milk, follow up with an oil solvent.
CHOCOLATE	Start with a combination solvent for grease, then follow up with a digestant for protein, if necessary.	Start with an oil solvent for grease. Dab with vinegar for color if necessary. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
MUSTARD	Flush with ammonia solution, then wash with dishwashing detergent.	Try dabbing with vinegar; you may need the dry cleaner.
SOY SAUCE	Start with water and dishwashing detergent. Using an eyedropper, flush with hydrogen peroxide for remaining color.	Use water and dishwashing detergent sparingly, then dab with vinegar for remaining color. Dab with cool water; dry flat.
BALLPOINT INK	Rub glycerin into area; let stand fifteen to twenty minutes, and wash with dishwashing detergent. Or spray with inexpensive hair spray, and flush with water.	Rub glycerin into area, and let stand fifteen to twenty minutes. Use dishwashing detergent and water sparingly. Dab with cool water; dry flat.