

REMOVING STAINS

| STAIN | WASHABLES | NON-WASHABLES |
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| 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. |