



## STAIN REMOVAL

### INTRODUCTION

One of the most troublesome problems in the care of clothing is the removal of spots and stains. Clothing is frequently discarded due to stains or damage to the fabric caused by trying to remove a stain.

Stain removal can be safe and effective if a few simple rules are observed.

- Remove the stain yourself, or have stain removed by a professional drycleaner, as soon as possible. Most stains are easier to remove when they are fresh. Old or set stains may not come out.
- Blot or carefully/gently scrap off excess stain or residue immediately.
- Before attempting to treat any stain, or before taking to the dry cleaner:
  - 1) Identify the stain and/or the location of the stain. Some spills may dry invisible; however, they will show up later. Mark the location of the stain if necessary.
  - 2) Identify the fiber content of the item/garment.
- If using a commercial stain remover product or solution you have prepared, test it on an inside seam or hidden section of the item/garment to see if the color will be affected.
- Work on the wrong side of the fabric, to push the stain out rather than into the fabric. Do not rub. Use soft, clean, white cloth or paper towel under the stain (on the right side of the fabric) to serve as a blotter. Move the absorbent material frequently to avoid the stain from being reabsorbed into the fabric.
- Do not use hot water on an unknown stain. Begin with cold or warm water, as hot water can set some stains.
- Always read and follow directions and safety suggestions when using commercial stain removal products.
- Work carefully and patiently. Some stubborn stains may require more than one treatment. Don't take short cuts!
- When items are to be drycleaned, be sure to identify the type and location of the stain as you talk with the drycleaner.

### STAIN REMOVAL STEPS

The following steps should always be followed:

- 1) Identify the location and classification of the stain.
- 2) Determine the fiber content of the garment and the preferred cleaning method (laundry or drycleaning).

- 3) Treat the stain or take the item to the drycleaner as soon as possible.

## CLASSIFICATIONS OF STAINS

There are five classifications of stains:

**WET** - wet-stains contain water or a water-base substances. They can be dissolved in cool water, loosened with liquid detergent and flushed away with water. Examples included wine and fruit juice.

**DRY** - dry-stains contain oil or greasy substances. They can be dissolved with drycleaning solvent, loosened with mineral oil and flushed away with drycleaning solvent. Examples include cooking oil and suntan lotion.

**COMBINATION** - combination wet/dry-stains contain both water and oily substances. They must be treated as an oil base stain first, then as a water-base stain. Permit the fabric to air dry between treatments. Examples include meat gravy and ice cream.

**SPECIAL** - special-stains require different or special stain removal substances or techniques. Examples include tar and paint.

**UNKNOWN** - unknown stains are those from sources unknown or they can not be identified. Treat these as a dry stain first. If necessary, then treat as a wet stain. Permit fabric to air dry between treatments.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY STAINS

Stains are much easier to treat if the staining material is known. By knowing the staining material, the stain can be classified, then treated according to the garment fiber content and preferred cleaning method (laundering or dry cleaning).

If you do not know what caused the stain, try to classify it by:

- looking at its color and appearance;
- determining the stain's location in relation to activities while wearing (using) item;
- smelling;
- feeling stain with clean hands, absorbent clean, white cloth or white paper towel.

## STAIN REMOVAL PROCEDURES

Successful stain removal requires the correct product(s) and the correct procedure or technique. The following procedures are suggested.

### I. WORK AREA

Select a well-ventilated area with good lighting. Protect surfaces by covering them with aluminum foil.

### II. TECHNIQUES & SUPPLIES FOR REMOVAL

**Sponging** - Place stained side of item down over absorbent material (white paper towel, white lint-free cloth). Using another piece of folded white lint-free cloth, lightly brush stained area working from the outside of the stain to the center. Avoid circular motions to prevent rings. Brush irregularly around edges. Change the pad of absorbent material underneath the stained area frequently.

**Tamping** - Place stained side of item down on a clean, hard surface (such as the bottom of glass casserole dish). "Tamp" by striking a brush lightly on the stain as though driving a tack with a small hammer. A clean shoe polish applicator brush is suggested. *Never* use enough pressure to bend brush bristles. Do not use on delicate, pile or ribbed fabrics.

**Using a spoon** - The bowl of a stainless steel teaspoon is an excellent stain removal tool. Place the stain directly on the work surface without any absorbent material underneath. Add stain remover. Hold the spoon by the bowl and move it back and forth using short, light strokes. Do not press down. Do not use on light, delicate fabrics.

**Flushing** - It is important to remove the released stain and the stain removal chemicals from the fabric. Clean liquid (stain remover) is poured through the stained area to rinse the unwanted substances away.

**Preventing Rings** - As stains are being removed, a ring may appear around the stained area. Fabrics that are smooth in texture and light in color may "ring" more readily than others. To prevent rings, use stain remover sparingly and change blotting material frequently. Brush lightly from outside edge in toward center. Change the blotting material frequently. Before air drying the article, place sponged/flushed area between dry absorbent material to remove excess moisture.

### III. STAIN REMOVAL PRODUCTS

The following is a list of some accepted stain removal products. Before using any commercial product, always read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Use all stain removal products in accordance with the item fiber content and care label recommendations.

- \* Energine™ (drycleaning solution)
- \* K-2R™ (drycleaning solution)
- \* Water
- \* Ammonia
- \* Denatured alcohol
- \* Turpentine
- \* Mineral spirits
- \* Spray & Wash™ (aerosol can drycleaning solvent)
- \* Nail polish remover
- \* White vinegar
- \* Amyl acetate (banana oil)

These products can be found in many supermarkets, drug stores and other locations where stain removal products are sold.

## STAIN REMOVAL--SPECIFIC STAINS

Stains are listed in alphabetical order.

### ADHESIVES

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to a reputable drycleaner as soon as possible, or sponge with drycleaning solvent.

**WASH** - If gummy residue is present, harden with ice and then gently scrape with a dull table knife edge to remove. Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Repeat if necessary. Apply and lightly rub in a liquid heavy-duty detergent and launder item as usual.

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Flush area immediately with cool water. Blot with clean white cloth or white paper towel. Take to a reputable drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush area immediately with cool water. Sponge with laundry detergent and launder, using bleach if safe for fabric. If the alcohol content in the beverage caused a change in color or a dye ring formed around the edge of the stain, the original appearance of the fabric can not be restored.

## BLOOD

Classification: *WET*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - If a small area, flush with cool water immediately. Blot with an absorbent towel or cloth. Take to a reputable drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush with cool water immediately.

- 1) Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder.
- 2) Soak item in an enzyme presoak; rinse. Launder as usual.

If the stain remains, apply a few drops of ammonia or 3 percent hydrogen peroxide. Then repeat treatment with detergent, laundering and rinsing. Before using either product, check for color change on an inside seam allowance. Follow with bleach treatment if safe for fabric.

## BUTTER/MARGARINE

Classification: *DRY*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot and/or remove excess with a clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH**- If stain is fresh, flush with water then apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply detergent to the dry fabric. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. If stain has dried, sponge with drycleaning solvent or waterless hand cleaner. Flush with water and air dry. If using a liquid detergent, apply to dry fabric and launder in water as hot as possible for the fabric. If using a

granular detergent, sponge area with water, then apply a paste of detergent and water to the stain. Launder as usual.

## CANDLE WAX

Classification: *SPECIAL*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Rub with ice to harden. Scrape carefully with a dull table knife. Place the stain between two clean white blotters, two layers of brown paper or layers of white paper towel. Press with a warm iron, moving the papers with each press. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent or take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Follow the iron removal procedure in paragraph above. Then sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a granular detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric along with bleach, if safe for fabric.

## CARBON PAPER (regular)

Classification: *SPECIAL*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using liquid detergent, apply it directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

If the stain remains, put several drops of ammonia on the stain and repeat detergent and launder procedure above. Before using ammonia, test for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance.

## **CARBON PAPER - Duplicating type**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with rubbing alcohol (use one part alcohol to two parts water for acetate fabrics). Test the solution for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance. Flush with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the fabric. Launder as usual.

## **CATSUP**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape excess. Blot with clean, white cloth or paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Gently scrape excess. Sponge with cool water or let soak for approximately 30 minutes in cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid to dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **CHEESE**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape to remove excess on surface. Sponge with drycleaning solvent. If not removed, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Gently scrape to remove excess. Sponge with drycleaning solvent; flush with drycleaning solvent. Permit fabric to air dry completely. Sponge with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, apply liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **CHEWING GUM**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Rub with ice to harden. Gently scrape to remove excess without damaging fabric. Sponge with drycleaning solvent. If not removed, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Rub with ice to harden. Gently scrape to remove excess without damaging fabric. Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. Sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **CHOCOLATE**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess immediately with absorbent towel or cloth. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. Sponge with cool water or soak for 30 minutes in cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry. If stain remains, drop ammonia or hydrogen peroxide on stain. Check for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance before using either product. Repeat detergent and laundering process.

### **COFFEE - plain/black**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush with water immediately. Stain which has dried should be sponged or soaked in cool water for approximately

30 minutes. Flush with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, let item dry, then apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **COFFEE - with dairy creamer/cream or milk**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. If using a powdered

detergent, sponge area with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **COFFEE - with sugar only**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush with water immediately. Stain which has dried should be sponged or soaked in cool water for approximately 30 minutes. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **CORRECTION FLUID - Liquid Paper for mimeograph**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot or remove excess from surface. Sponge with amyl acetate (banana oil). If not removed, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge stain with amyl acetate (banana oil). Flush with amyl acetate. Before using, test on an inside seam allowance. Repeat until stain is removed. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **COSMETICS - Eye Shadow**

Classification: ***WET or COMBINATION***

Garment Care Method:

***DRYCLEAN*** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. If stain remains, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

***WASH*** - If possible, read the eye shadow label. If *water-proof eye shadow*, sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

If eye shadow is not *waterproof*, sponge with water, then flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **COSMETICS - Lipstick**

Classification: ***SPECIAL***

Garment Care Method:

***DRYCLEAN*** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. If stain remains, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

***WASH*** - Sponge with a grease solvent; flush with drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. Sponge with water, apply a paste of detergent and water to the area. If using a powdered detergent and water. Launder as usual. If using liquid detergent,

apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry.

If not removed, soak in an ammonia solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon ammonia) for 30 minutes. Before using, test solution on inside seam allowance for colorfastness. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water, then flush with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder in the hottest water safe for the fabric. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

## **COSMETICS - Mascara**

Classification: ***COMBINATION***

Garment Care Method:

***DRYCLEAN*** - Gently remove the excess from the surface with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Sponge with drycleaning solvent; flush with drycleaning solvent. If not removed, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

***WASH*** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent; flush with drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder using hottest water safe for fabric. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

## **COSMETICS - Makeup (Liquid, Pancake or Powder)**

Classification: ***WET or DRY***

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess liquid with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Gently shake or brush powdered substance. Read product label to identify if makeup is oil-base or water-base. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Read the product label to identify if makeup is oil-base or water-base.

Oil-base: Sponge with drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent.

Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder using hottest water safe for fabric.

Water-base: Sponge with cool water. Flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry, and then apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## CRAYON

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape off excess from surface with a dull table knife. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. If not removed, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Gently scrape off excess with a dull table knife. Sponge with drycleaning solvent; flush with drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent,

sponge area with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. Air dry until you know stain has been completely removed. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent to directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Repeat if necessary. Launder as usual when stain is removed.

## DEODORANT/Anti-Perspirant

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean absorbent towel or cloth. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with cool water; flush with water. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water to wet area, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. To restore color, use ammonia on new stain; vinegar on old stains. Flush and rinse well. Before using either substance on stained area, test on an inside seam allowance for colorfastness.

## EGG

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape off excess with dull edge of table knife. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Gently scrape off excess with a dull edge of a table knife. Soak in water and enzyme presoak product for 15 to 20 minutes. Launder as usual.



## FINGERNAIL POLISH

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, white cloth or white paper towel.

- 1) On fabrics other than acetate, triacetate, and modacrylic, sponge or tamp with acetone (fingernail polish remover). Flush with acetone. Before using, test in an inconspicuous area to make sure it will not damage or change fabric color.
- 2) Sponge with amyl acetate (banana oil). Flush with amyl acetate. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - On fabrics other than acetate, triacetate, Dynel modacrylic, Verel modacrylic, sponge or tamp with acetone (fingernail polish remover). Flush with acetone. Before using, however, test in an inconspicuous area to make sure it will not damage or change fabric color. Let item air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water to the area and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## FOOD COLORING

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush with cool water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let

item air dry completely, and apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## FRUIT/FRUIT JUICES

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - If possible, flush immediately with cool water. Blot with clean, white cloth or absorbent white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush immediately with cool water if at all possible.

- 1) Sponge with cool water, then flush with cool water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.
- 2) Soak item 30 minutes in an enzyme presoak. Rinse. Launder as usual. Line dry until you know stain has been removed.

## GLUE - Airplane

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot up excess with absorbent, white paper towel, tissue or cloth. Take to reputable drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. Check area and repeat if necessary. Once glue stain is removed, launder as usual.

## **GLUE - Rubber Cement**

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape gummy substance from area with the back edge of a table knife. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Gently scrape gummy substance from area with the back edge of a table knife. Sponge with drycleaning solvent. Flush with drycleaning solvent. When removed, air dry. If using powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **GLUE - Super or Instant**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

Regardless of care method, *Super* or *Instant* glue is not easily removed. Check in the marketplace where the glue is sold for a glue removing product, or call the glue manufacturer for a solution. Be sure to read the label carefully before using any type of commercial glue removing product. Product may not be safe for all fabrics. Before using, test on an inside seam allowance for fabric or color damage.

## **GLUE - White Household**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot up excess with clean,

white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with cool water immediately if possible. Soak in a vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon white vinegar) approximately 15 minutes. Before using solution, test on an inside seam allowance for colorfastness. Flush with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If glue has hardened and aged, it may be impossible to remove.

## **GRASS**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** -

- 1) Sponge with drycleaning solvent; flush with dry cleaning solvent. Air dry. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. Use bleach if safe for fabric.
- 2) Soak or prewash with an enzyme presoak. Rinse well. Launder with bleach if safe for fabric.

## **GRAVY**

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with absorbent paper towel or tissue. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning

solvent; flush with a dry cleaning solvent. Let air dry. Apply liquid detergent to area and launder as usual. If using powdered detergent, sponge dry fabric with water. Make a paste of powdered detergent and water and apply to the stained area. Launder as usual.

## **GREASE**

### **Cooking oil or cooking grease**

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean, white cloth or absorbent paper towel immediately to remove excess from surface. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel immediately to remove excess from surface. Flour, corn starch, or baking soda will also absorb grease and can be brushed away. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. Apply a liquid detergent to dry fabric and launder using the hottest water safe for fabric. If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder using hottest water safe for fabric.

### **GREASE - Mechanics**

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent. Flush with a drycleaning solvent;

let air dry. Apply a liquid detergent directly to the area and launder using hottest water safe for fabric. If using a powdered detergent, sponge dry fabric with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water to area and launder using hottest water safe for fabric.

## **ICE CREAM**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot or remove excess with paper towel or clean absorbent cloth. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent and flush with a drycleaning solvent. Air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply detergent directly to dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **INK**

### **Ball Point Pen (permanent)**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to reputable drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** -

- 1) Spray with hair spray, containing alcohol, following the sponge procedure. Continue the spray and blot technique until the stain is removed. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

- 2) Sponge with rubbing alcohol. Before using on stain, check for colorfastness on an inside seam. Continue until stain is removed. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **INK**

#### **Ball Point Pen (washable)**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to reputable drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with water; flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet stain area, launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **INK**

#### **Felt Tip Marker Pen**

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a grease solvent. Flush with a drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **INK**

#### **Fountain/India**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner immediately. Stain is very difficult to remove when allowed to dry.

**WASH** - Flush with water immediately to loosen pigment. Rub in a soap or detergent several times and flush with water; let air dry. Repeat several times. Soak in ammonia solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon ammonia) for approximately 30 minutes. Dried stains may be soaked overnight. Flush with water. Be sure to test solution for colorfastness on an inside seam. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder. Rinse thoroughly and repeat if necessary.

### **INK**

#### **Highlighter Pen**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush with cool water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to the wet fabric, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## **INK Printing or Mimeograph**

Stains that are old, or are permitted to dry, can not always be removed.

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner immediately. Stains that set may not be removed.

### **WASH -**

- 1) Sponge with mimeograph or printing ink thinner; flush with thinner. Repeat until stain has been removed. Launder, see below.
- 2) Sponge with a drycleaning solvent. Flush with a drycleaning solvent; let air dry, then launder. See directions below.
- 3) Sponge with turpentine; flush area with turpentine; let air dry. Before using turpentine directly on stained area, test for colorfastness on inside seam.

**LAUNDERING:** If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric; launder as usual.

## **JELLY OR JAM**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently remove excess. Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Soak in a vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid

handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon white vinegar) for approximately 30 minutes. Before using, test solution for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance. Flush with water, then launder. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, directly to the wet fabric and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry then apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

## **MAYONNAISE / SALAD DRESSING**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape excess from surface immediately. Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Remove excess from surface immediately. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder using hottest water safe for fabric.

## **MILDEW**

Advanced stages of mildew can not be completely corrected as mildew (mold) growth weakens and destroys some types of fabric. Take precautions to eliminate and prevent mildew from reoccurring.

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner immediately.

**WASH** - Launder immediately using bleach if safe for fabric. Rinse well. Dry in sun if safe for fabric.

### **MILK/ CREAM / BABY FORMULA**

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent. Flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry. If stain remains, drop ammonia on stain; tamp. Be sure to check for colorfastness to solution on an inside seam before using. Flush with water. Launder.

### **MUD**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Let stain dry, then brush gently to remove excess. Take to drycleaner.

**WASH** - Let stain dry, then brush gently.

- 1) If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and

launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

- 2) Soak item using an enzyme presoak, following package directions. Rinse. Launder as usual.

### **MUSTARD**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape off excess with dull portion of table knife. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon vinegar). Flush with water. Before using solution, test for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

### **PAINT - Latex**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Do not let stain dry. Take to drycleaner immediately.

**WASH** - Flush with water immediately. Sponge with water; tamp then flush with water. Continue until removed. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric, and launder. If using a liquid

detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric.  
Launder as usual.

### **PAINT - Oil**

Dried stains are difficult or impossible to remove.

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner immediately.

**WASH** - Sponge with paint solvent immediately. Before using, however, check on inside seam for color change. Flush with paint solvent. Tamp and flush, repeating process until stain is removed. Let air dry. If using powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using liquid detergent, apply directly to dry fabric. Launder as usual. Dried stains are difficult or impossible to remove. If stain has dried or partially dried, sponge with turpentine until no more paint is removed; let air dry. Apply detergent and launder.

### **PENCIL MARK - Led/Colored**

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - A soft eraser may remove marks from some fabrics. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - A soft eraser will remove marks from some fabrics. Sponge with ammonia solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon ammonia). Before using solution, test for colorfastness on an inside

seam allowance. Flush with water, then launder. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric. If using a liquid detergent, let area air dry and apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

### **PERFUME**

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently blot excess immediately with clean tissue, absorbent paper towel or clean, white cloth. Sponge area with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with cool water. Flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric; launder as usual; line or air dry. If using a liquid detergent, let area air dry completely, then apply liquid to the dry fabric. Launder as usual; line or air dry. If stain is not removed, soak in vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon white vinegar) for 15 minutes. Flush with water. Be sure to test solution for color fastness on an inside seam allowance before using. Launder following these directions:

If using powdered detergent, apply paste of detergent and water; launder as usual. If using a liquid, item should air dry. Apply liquid detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

The alcohol content in perfume may permanently alter the dye or item color.

## PERSPIRATION

Classification: *WET*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with cool water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric; launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry then apply detergent directly to dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry.

If stain is new and remains, soak 15 minutes in ammonia solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon ammonia). Rinse in water. Be sure to check solution for colorfastness on an inside seam. Let air dry. Launder.

If stain is old and remains, soak 15 minutes in vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon vinegar). Rinse in water. Be sure to check solution for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance. Launder following these guidelines:

If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water

directly to wet fabric; launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, let area air dry. Apply detergent directly to dry fabric, then launder.

## POLLEN - Tree or Flower

Classification: *COMBINATION*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

## RUST

Classification: *SPECIAL*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** -

- 1) Use a commercial rust remover, following product directions carefully. Before using, check for color change on an inside seam. Launder.
- 2) Take item to reputable drycleaner.

For an entire load of clothes, fill washer with clean water, add one cup non-precipitating water softener and run clothes through complete wash/rinse cycle (without detergent or bleach).

## SCORCH

Classification: *WET*

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Severe scorch cannot be removed. For light scorch, take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Severe scorch cannot be removed. For light scorch, sponge with cool water and hydrogen peroxide. Flush with water. Before using hydrogen peroxide, test for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance. Let item air dry.



If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply detergent to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Use bleach if safe for fabric.

## SHOE POLISH

Classification: **WET** or **DRY**, or **COMBINATION** There are many different kinds of polish; therefore no one method will always remove stain.

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently remove any excess from surface. Blot liquids with a clean, white cloth or a white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a dry cleaning solvent. Air dry completely. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Line dry.

If stain remains, sponge with alcohol. Before using, check colorfastness on an inside seam. Flush with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water to area and launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, allow fabric to dry. Apply liquid detergent directly to dry fabric and launder as usual.

## SMOKE/SOOT

Classification: **WET** or **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Carefully vacuum area without touching surface. Take to

drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Carefully vacuum area without touching surface. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## SOFT DRINK

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

Some stains, containing sugar can dry invisible and with age or heat turn yellow. If permitted to stay in fabric, they become impossible to remove.

**WASH** - Flush with water immediately, or blot with clean, white absorbent towel or cloth. If allowed to dry, sponge and/or soak in cool water. Flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to damp fabric; launder as usual. If using liquid detergent, let item air dry. Apply a liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder. Let air dry. If stain remains, launder again using bleach if safe for fabric.

## SUNTAN LOTION

Classification: **DRY**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot with clean white absorbent cloth or paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, make a paste of powdered detergent and water. Sponge area with water and apply paste; launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual using bleach if safe for fabric.

## TAR

Classification: **DRY**

(Can be very difficult to remove.)

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape excess from fabric, taking care not to damage fabric. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** -

- 1) Gently scrape excess from fabric, taking care not to damage fabric. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply liquid directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry.

If stain is not removed, sponge and flush alternately with turpentine. Be sure to check turpentine on an inside seam allowance for possible color change before using. Let air dry. If using powdered detergent, sponge with cool water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water; launder. If using a liquid detergent,

apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

- 2) Take item to drycleaner as soon as possible.

## TEA

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Flush with water immediately. Blot carefully with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush with water immediately, or blot with clean, white cloth or white paper

towel. If allowed to dry, sponge with cool water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry, then apply detergent directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual using bleach if safe for fabric.

If not removed, soak in vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon white vinegar) for 15 to 30 minutes. Be sure to check solution on an inside seam for colorfastness before using on stain. Flush with water. Let item air dry. Sponge with alcohol. Be sure to check solution on an inside seam for colorfastness before using on stain. Launder.

## TOBACCO

Classification: **WET - SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Soak in vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon white vinegar) 15 to 30 minutes. Be sure to check colorfastness of solution on an inside seam before using. Flush with water. Let air dry. Sponge with alcohol. Be sure to check colorfastness of solution on an inside seam before using on the stain. Launder following these directions: If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## TOOTHPASTE

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Gently scrape or blot excess from surface. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Soak in vinegar solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon white vinegar) 15 to 30 minutes. Be sure to check for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance before using. Flush with water. Let air dry. Sponge with alcohol. Be sure to check for color-fastness on an inside seam allowance before using. Launder as usual.

If using a powdered detergent, sponge area with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## TREE SAP

Classification: **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with drycleaning solvent. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with a drycleaning solvent. Flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry. If stain remains, apply a few drops of ammonia. Before using, check ammonia for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance. Launder as usual.

## URINE

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, white cloth or absorbent paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge or soak in cool water. Flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to the wet fabric, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual. Line dry.

To restore color:

- 1) Sponge with ammonia. Be sure to check for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance before using on stain. Flush with water. Launder; line dry. If this treatment does not work, try sponging with white vinegar and flushing with water. Be sure to check for colorfastness on an inside seam allowance before using on stain. Launder as usual.

- 2) Use a color remover if safe for fabric. Read and follow directions carefully.

## VEGETABLE

Classification: **WET**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Sponge with water. Flush with water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric; launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual, using bleach if safe for fabric.

## VOMIT

Classification: **SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Remove excess from surface by gently scraping and/or blotting with clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Flush immediately with water.

- 1) Sponge with ammonia solution (1 quart warm water, ½ teaspoon liquid handwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon ammonia). Be sure to check for colorfastness to solution on an inside seam before using. Flush with cool water. If using a powdered detergent, apply a paste of powdered detergent and water directly to wet fabric, and launder. If using a liquid detergent, let item air dry completely, then apply liquid detergent to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

- 2) Soak item in an enzyme presoak, following product directions. Rinse. Launder as usual.

If grease stain remains, sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Let air dry. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with water. Apply a paste of powdered detergent and water and launder. If using a liquid detergent, apply directly to the dry fabric. Launder as usual.

## WATER SPOT

Classification: **WET or SPECIAL**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Blot excess with clean, absorbent towel or cloth. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible.

**WASH** - Launder entire garment. If spot does not disappear, treat as an UNKNOWN STAIN (see below).

Some fabrics water-spot permanently.

## UNKNOWN

Classification: Could be **WET, DRY** or **COMBINATION**

Garment Care Method:

**DRYCLEAN** - Remove any excess from surface using clean, white cloth or white paper towel. Take to drycleaner as soon as possible. Provide as much information as possible about the stain or stained area.

**WASH** - Stain should be treated as a *dry* stain first, then as a *wet* stain. Sponge with a drycleaning solvent; flush with a drycleaning solvent. Air dry completely. If using a powdered detergent, sponge with cool water. Apply a paste of

powdered detergent and water; launder as usual. If using a liquid detergent, apply detergent directly to dry fabric. Launder as usual.

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**NOTE: Trade names, where used, are given for the purpose of providing specific information. They do not constitute an endorsement or guarantee of products named, nor does it imply criticism of products not named.**

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