**Stain Removal Guide**



**R & R Developers, LLC**

**The "Three P's" of Stain Removal**

Most stains can eventually be removed by following these procedures. However, some stains are stubborn and may only be lightened.

**Promptness**

Treat stains as quickly as possible before laundering. Age and laundering before pretreating can set some stains.

**Patience**

If the garment is worth saving, it is worth a little extra time and effort to follow stain removal procedures.

**Persistence**

Because some stains are difficult to remove, it may be necessary to repeat a procedure several times.

**Getting Started**

* These procedures apply only to washable items. They do not apply to garments which should be dry cleaned.
* Because some stains are not easily seen when the fabric is wet, air dry the items to be certain the stain has been removed. Machine drying might make the stain more difficult to remove.
* Work on the stain from the reverse side to prevent it from spreading to unstained areas.
* Any material on which you have used a cleaning solvent, or which is saturated with flammable liquids, solids, vegetable oil or animal fats, should not be placed in washer or dryer until traces of them and their fumes have been removed. Highly flammable substances used in stain removal include acetone, denatured alcohol, some liquid household cleaners and some spot removers. In addition, stains may be caused by flammable substances such as turpentine, wax and wax removers.
* Do not mix or combine stain removal products, especially ammonia and chlorine bleach; noxious fumes may result.
* ****Read instructions on all products and keep them out of children’s reach.

**Elements for Successful Stain Removal**

* **Soaking**

Soaking garments with either laundry detergent or a special presoak product (Biz, Clorox 2, of Snowy\*) will aid stain removal. Soak protein stains (blood, grass, or egg) in cold water. Soak oily stains in warm water. 30 minutes or less should be sufficient.

* **Pretreating**

Use a liquid detergent, a paste of granular detergent and water, or a special pretreat product (Clorox, Spray Out, Spray ‘N Wash, or Shout\*). Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

* **Rust Remover**

Rover Rust Remover\* is available from authorized Maytag dealers or parts distributors. Use according to package directions. Many supermarkets also carry rust removers. Use these carefully and follow manufacturer’s instructions.

* **Cleaning Fluid**

Brand names include Carbona, Energine, De-Solv-it, and Whink Wash Away.\* Use carefully and follow manufacturer’s instructions.

* **Detergent**

Granular detergents work best on mud and clay types of soil and are more effective in hard water. Liquids are good for cold water washing, pretreating, and removing greasy, oily stains. Some detergents contain enzymes or bleach to provide additional stain removal benefits (this will be indicated on the label). Use a generous amount for stain removal.

* **Bleach**
	+ **Chlorine** – Identify by the word “hypochlorite.” This type of bleach may be used on all fabrics except silk, wool, spandex, and non-colorfast fabrics. Follow manufacturer’s instructions.
	+ **Non-Chlorine** – Identify by the words “all-fabric.” This type of bleach may be used on all fabrics and colors. Follow the instructions on the label. To achieve maximum effectiveness use regularly.

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**Different Types of Stains**

**Beverage, Fruit/Fruit Juice, Chocolate/Cocoa, Perfume**

Sponge promptly with cold water or soak in cold water. Pretreat remaining stain. Launder with appropriate bleach and hottest water safe for fabric.



**Blood**

Soak in cold water. Pretreat remaining stain. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If stain persists, soak in warm water with presoak product.

**Candle Wax**

Rub with ice and carefully scrape off excess wax with a dull knife. Place between several layers of paper towels and press with a warm iron. To remove remaining stain use a pretreat product. Rinse. If colored stain remains, launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach.

**Catsup/Tomato Products, Egg, Meat Juice/Gravy, Mud**

Scrape off excess with a dull knife. Soak in cold water. Pretreat remaining stain. Launder using hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach.

**Cosmetics, Grass, Grease/Oil, Mayonnaise/Salad Dressing, Mustard, Pencil Lead**

Pretreat stain and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use chlorine bleach if safe for fabric. If a grease stain remains, soak in warm water with a pretreat product. Rinse thoroughly and relaunder.

**Crayon**

Place stained surface down on a pad of paper towels. Spray with WD-40\* (available at hardware stores) and let stand for a few minutes. Turn fabric and spray the other side, let stand. Apply liquid hand dishwashing detergent and work into stain until removed. Use a paper towel to absorb the stain. Hand wash the item in detergent thoroughly making sure the WD-40 odor is removed. Launder as usual.

**Deodorant/Antiperspirant/Perspiration**

Pretreat stain and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If fabric is discolored, try to restore it by treating fresh stains with ammonia or old stains with white vinegar. Rinse thoroughly and relaunder.

**Dye Transfer**

May be impossible to remove. If clothes are still wet, immediately spray with Spray ‘n Wash.\* Relaunder in warm water. If items are dry, launder with chlorine bleach if safe for fabric. If not safe, use non-chlorine bleach or a commercial color remover according to package directions.

**Fabric Softener**

Rub the dampened stain with bar soap (such as Ivory\*) and relaunder.

**Formula, Milk/Cream/Ice Cream**

Soak in warm water. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If a grease stain remains, soak in warm water with a pretreat product. Rinse thoroughly and relaunder.

**Gum**

Rub stained area with ice. Remove excess gum carefully with a dull knife. Use a pretreat product. Rinse. Launder using hottest water safe for fabric.

**Ink, Ballpoint**

Sponge stain with rubbing alcohol, or spray with pretreat product or hair spray until wet looking. Rinse thoroughly. Pretreat stain and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach.

**Ink, Felt Tip**

Rub household cleaner such as Fantastik or Mr. Clean\* into stain. Rinse as many times as necessary to remove stain. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach. May be impossible to remove.

**Mildew**

Pretreat stain and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If stain remains, sponge with hydrogen peroxide (available at drug stores). Rinse thoroughly and relaunder.

**Nail Polish**

Place stain face down on paper towels. Sponge with nail polish remover until stain disappears. Rinse thoroughly. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. (Do not use nail polish remover on acetate of Arnel fabric. Send them to a dry cleaner.)

**Rust**

Launder with a rust remover. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for use. Do not use chlorine bleach as this will intensify the stain.

**Shoe Polish (Wax) **

Scrape off excess with a dull knife. Pretreat stain and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach. If stain persists, sponge with one part alcohol and two parts water. Rinse thoroughly and relaunder.

**Smoke/Soot**

Shake to remove loose particles. Sort by amount of soil to avoid transfer onto lighter soiled items. Use 1 cup water conditioner (Calgon, Axion, etc.\*), ½ cup non-chlorine bleach and recommended amount of detergent as directed on the package. Wash in warm or hot water. Relaunder until removed. Cotton items may require 4 – 5 washes. (Do not dry between washes).

**Tar**

Act quickly before stain is dry. Scrape off excess from fabric with a dull knife. Place stain face down on paper towels. Sponge back of stain with a tar remover. Rinse thoroughly. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric.

**Unknown Stain**

Avoid using hot water right away. Pretreat the stain and soak in cold water. Launder in cold water with detergent. If stain is not removed, relaunder in warm water. If stain is still not removed, then launder in hot water.

**Urine/Vomit/Stool**

Scrape to remove solids. Soak in warm water. Pretreat stain and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Use appropriate bleach.

**Water-Based Paint**

Rinse fabric in cool water to flush out paint while stains are still wet. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Dried paint is very hard to remove. However, there are commercial products that may remove such stains. Follow package directions.