

Stain Removal

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General Guidelines for Stain Removal:

The basic rule for stain removal: Give Your Product Time to Work. Apply the cleaner and allow it to set undisturbed for at least 15 minutes. Silk, wool including wool carpet, linen and Persian carpets can be exceptions. Always read and follow manufacturer recommendations when removing stains from these fabrics. It's best to let a professional clean these fabrics.

*NOTE: When working with clothing always put a piece of plastic between layers of clothing to prevent the stain from soaking onto the second layer. Put a clean but old towel on your work surface to protect the surface.

*Key Point: I speak sometimes of using a concentrated orange cleaner to remove oil and grease but to make sure it does not contain petroleum distillates. Companies are getting tricky as to how they list the distillates. It may be called mineral spirits or Aliphatic Hydrocarbon. It might also be listed as just Hydrocarbon. Look for the "Caution" warning. If the bottle contains that warning, it also contains a distillate.

Clean a spill immediately. The longer a stain sets the more stubborn it becomes to remove. Use a clean white rag to remove a stain. The color from the rag could transfer to the fabric or surface you are cleaning. Apply the cleaner to the rag and blot on the stain. Then wait 15 to 30 minutes giving the cleaner time to dissolve the stain.

When working with fabrics always blot never rub. Rubbing breaks down the fibers and weakens the material. After 15 minutes, blot to remove the stain. Reapply the cleaner rather than attempting to rub out the stain. Move the rag after each time you blot to prevent spreading the stain.

How to Blot: Punch your index knuckle into a barely damp rag. Work your knuckle forwards and backwards then left to right across the stain. If you are working in carpet then twist your wrist in a clockwise direction. Carpet fibers are twisted clockwise. This motion removes stains from between the fibers without causing the carpet to fuzz. Remember to frequently move the towel to prevent the stain from spreading.

Rinsing After removing the stain rinse with a vinegar and water (one-fourth cup per quart of water) followed by plain water. Use cool water to treat a stain. Heat of any kind generally sets a stain.

Wash the garment after removing the stain then air dry. Dryer heat permanently sets the stain if the stain is not entirely removed.

Note: The guidelines here may not apply to every fabric or surface. Before using a cleaner on any fabric or surface, test an inconspicuous spot first for colorfastness.

Special Considerations

Your leather/ vinyl jacket or clothing will give you years of service if cleaned and conditioned regularly. You will not find a better product anywhere than our Leather/Vinyl Cleaner and Conditioner for your clothes and furniture.

Persian rugs, wool rugs and wool carpet require the care of a professional. Wood treatment in this section refers only to wood furniture.

Antique Lace and tablecloths and linens	Grass Stains	Paste Wax
Baby Clothes	Grease and Oil	Paint
Ballpoint Ink	Gum	Perspiration Stains
Beer and alcohol:	Hand Lotion	Petroleum Jelly
Blood	Iodine	Rust
Crayon	Leather	Sap
Dirt	Lipstick	Shoe Polish
Discolored Clothing	Magic Marker	Soot
Dye	Mascara	Tar
Feces	Methiolade	Urine
Food	Milk	Washing Clothes
Glue and Adhesive	Mold/Mildew	Wax
	Nail Polish	

Antique Lace, tablecloths and linens

These items yellow with age. Fill a sink with cool water adding 1 cup of 3% hydrogen peroxide. Do not use chlorine bleach as it worsens the yellowing. Soak the item for 30 minutes. If the yellow has not disappeared then add one-half cup more of peroxide and soak another 30 minutes. Rinse in one-third cup vinegar to one gallon of water. Air dry.

Baby Clothes

Do not use chlorine bleach on baby clothing. It worsens the problem and irritates their skin.

Hydrogen peroxide removes baby formula and the yellowing in christening gowns. Mix a fifty-fifty solution of a 3% peroxide (found in drug and grocery stores) and water. Soak the clothes for 30 minutes and launder as normal. Air dry to make certain the stain is completely removed. Heat sets a stain.

If after soaking for 30 minutes the stain has not been completely removed pour the peroxide directly onto the stain. Soak another 30 minutes then launder as normal in cold water.

Ballpoint Ink

Follow the General Stain removal guidelines.

You may read recommendations to use hair spray for ink removal. It contains alcohol, which is the ingredient that removes the ink. The other chemicals in hair spray could damage a fabric. Take caution should you decide to use hair spray on a stain.

Our Ion-A-Clean removes ink from all fabrics except leather and vinyl. Allow it to set 30 minutes then blot carefully.

Our Leather/Vinyl Cleaner and Conditioner safely removes ink from any leather or vinyl surface including clothing furniture and vehicle seats. The exception is gel ink and nothing removes that from any surface. Do be careful with gel ink pens.

Silk, wool and linen. Allow the Ion-A-Clean to set only 5 minutes and rinse with cool water. Reapply if needed. Dry cleaning is recommended.

Wood: Ink pens generally gouge the wood forcing the ink deep into the wood. Remember wood damages easily so use caution with rubbing alcohol. If the ink is on the surface apply the Ion-A-Clean and wait 5 minutes. Blot to remove.

Allowing a liquid of any kind to linger on a wood surface could warp the wood. Reapply the Ion_A-Clean after five minutes if the ink has not completely been removed. Then wait 24 hours to treat again giving the wood time to dry.

Condition the wood after removing the ink with Mary Moppins Wood Cleaner and Conditioner. It will help restore the wood. Apply the wood treatment to the entire tabletop, not just the stained spot. Wood needs conditioning at least twice a year to keep it moisturized.

Beer and alcohol:

Read the General Stain Removal Guidelines.

For all fabrics other than silk, wool or linen: Immediately rinse with cool water. If you are out in public, dab on a bit of liquid hand soap from the restroom. Do not rub, let it set five minutes and rinse with cool water. If the stain remains, dab on a bit more soap and leave it on. It may look a bit strange, but the stain won't set.

Club soda also removes an alcohol stain and most food stains. If you are in a restaurant, ask for a glass of club soda and gently blot on the spot. Launder the garment when you return home.

At home, immediately spray on some Ion-A-Clean. Wait 30 to 45 seconds then rinse with cool water and blot.

Silk, wool and linen. Rinse with cool water and take the garment to the cleaners immediately.

Wood: Wipe immediately and clean with sudsy water. Should the alcohol leave a watermark apply Mary Moppins Wood Cleaner and Conditioner allow it to set 30 minutes and wipe to remove. Apply the wood treatment to the entire tabletop. Wood needs conditioning at least twice a year to keep it moisturized.

Blood:

Follow the General Guidelines for stain removal.

Carpet including wool, immediately spray with Ion-A-Clean. Wait 30 to 45 seconds then blot. Repeat if necessary. Move the towel frequently to prevent spreading the stain. As the blood releases from the carpet fibers it will begin seeping deeper into the carpet. Blot continuously.

Clothing: flush the garment immediately with cool water. Then soak in cool water for 5 minutes. Rinse and spray on Ion-A-Clean. Wait 45 seconds and air-dry. Do not dry in the dryer until the bloodstain has been completely removed.

To remove bloodstains if the garment has gone through the dryer: soak the stain in straight hydrogen peroxide. Do not use regular household bleach. Rinse with a vinegar and water solution and again in cool water. Air dry. Always test a spot first for color fastness.

Crayon

Follow the General Guidelines for stain removal.

Hard surfaces including walls and woodwork: Most children's crayons are now washable. Dampen a cloth pouring just a small amount of our Liquid Dish Soap on the cloth. Wait 15 minutes and blot to remove. Toothpaste is a mild abrasive, which removes stubborn spots.

If the crayon does not respond then it must be dissolved. Wal-Mart has a product called DeSolvIt. which dissolves the wax. It can discolor wood or walls so test a small area first. Apply with a clean cloth, wait 15 minutes and gently blot to remove the crayon. Rinse with sudsy water then plain water.

Fabric: Use the DeSolvIt and apply as above.

Dirt

Follow the General Guidelines for stain removal

Spray on Ion-A-Clean and leave it alone for 45 to 60 seconds. Or dab on a bit of liquid dish soap and allow to set several hours even overnight. Blot then rinse with vinegar and water or machine-wash immediately. Foaming shaving cream also does a good job removing stubborn dirt or dirt that has gone through the dryer.

Discolored clothing

Should your clothes begin to appear yellow or gray chances are you have been using regular household bleach. Chlorine bleach will turn the whitest of whites a dingy color after repeated launderings. To brighten them fill the washer with cool water and add 2 cups hydrogen peroxide and half the normal amount of detergent. Add the clothes allowing them to soak for 30 minutes. Continue the wash cycle.

If after 30 minutes the clothes still appear yellow, add more peroxide to the water and continue soaking for another 30 minutes.

Dye

Read the general stain removal guidelines.

If your dog or cat loses its lunch on the carpet leaving a red stain that is a red dye 40 stain. It's caused by the dye in the pet's food. Switching food to a neutral color food ends this frustrating problem. Dogs and cats are colorblind. They can't see the difference in the color of the food.

Red dye is also found in punch, Popsicles, Kool-Aid and candles that are red or purple in color. To prevent accidents from leaving sometimes a permanent stain, switch to colors other than red or purple.

Red or purple dyes are best removed with peroxide. Regular household bleach in most cases only makes the stain worse. Remember to always test an inconspicuous spot first for color fastness.

Use 3% peroxide found at grocery stores or drug stores. Blot on the stain wait 30 minutes, rinse with vinegar and water then plain water. Repeat if needed.

Feces

Feces must be removed with an enzyme product. You will appreciate how quickly Bac Out neutralizes the odors and removes the stains. Pour on and saturate the area. Follow the bottle directions. Blot to remove. Rinse with plain water and dry. Repeat if needed. Nature's Miracle is another excellent product found in most pet stores.

Do not use a cleaner before applying an enzyme product. The cleaner will kill the enzymes and bacteria rendering them useless. Most cleaners will not remove the odor. Odors are caused by the bacteria and they grow causing the odor to worsen with time. Enzymes are most effective for removing odors.

Food

Food never spills down your front unless you are out in public where it quickly makes a mockery of your front side. Should, that happen, head to the closest restroom. Gently dab a bit of liquid soap on the spot and resist the temptation to rub. Let the soap set. It may look funny until you get home, but the food stain comes right out.

If a favorite shirt has an old stain, soak it in peroxide and water for 30 minutes. It might surprise you and come out, even after going through the dryer.

Coffee, coke, mustard: Our Ion-A-Clean is negatively charged ionic water. The negative ions encapsulate the stain causing it to release from the fabric. It is the most affective product for removing these stubborn stains. Spray on, wait 45 seconds and blot to remove. Repeat if needed.

Alternatively you can spray the spot with foaming shaving cream. Resist the temptation to play in the foam. The shaving cream doesn't need any help at all. Wait 15 minutes blot and rinse with vinegar and water.

Chocolate and oil: Immediately dab on our Liquid Dish Soap and wait 30 minutes or longer. Rinse and repeat if needed. Use foaming shaving cream if some of the stain still remains. Wait 15 minutes and rinse.

Glue and adhesive

Follow the general stain removal guidelines.

Glue and adhesive require a petroleum distillate or a concentrated orange cleaner to dissolve the sticky residue. Wal-Mart has a product called DeSolvIt that works quite well. Always test an inconspicuous spot first.

Generously blot on the cleaner. Wait for an hour then blot to remove. Do not rub to remove, reapply the cleaner if necessary. Then apply liquid dish soap to remove the cleaner and rinse with vinegar and water.

Grass Stains

Immediately rub in a bit of our concentrated "Bi-O-Kleen". Let that set overnight then gently rub, rinse with cool water and wash. Air dry the garment to make sure the stain has been completely removed.

Grease and oil

Read the general stain removal guidelines.

Grease and oil require an acid product or a concentrated orange cleaner to dissolve the sticky residue. Department stores carry one called DeSolvIt. Some of these products can contain petroleum distillates that can damage surfaces and discolor them as well.

Generously blot on the cleaner. Wait for an hour then blot to remove. Do not rub to remove, reapply the cleaner if necessary. Then apply liquid dish soap to remove the cleaner and rinse with vinegar and water.

Gum

Freeze the gum with a cube of ice. Use our Scrape It to chip away all you can. Repeat until most of the gum has been removed.

Anything remaining can be removed by applying DeSolvIt found at many department stores. Finish by applying our Liquid Dish Soap to remove the cleaner and rinse with vinegar and water.

Hand Lotion

Gently rub in foaming shaving cream. Wait 30 minutes and rinse with cool water.

If hand lotion has spilled onto wood, the wood absorbs the lotion making the stain removal difficult. Sprinkle on some cornstarch rubbing it into the grain. Let that set 5 to 6 hours vacuum to remove and repeat.

If a stain remains the table will require refinishing. Call a furniture refinishing store for their recommendations.

Iodine and Metholide

Read the general stain removal guidelines. Treat immediately. The longer it sets the harder it is to remove this stain. The best thing for iodine is our Ion-A-Clean. Ion-A-Clean is negatively charged water that goes through a patented process. The ionized water encapsulates the stain forcing it to release from the fabric. Spray on, wait one minute then blot to remove. Repeat if needed. If the stain still remains, it's permanent. Iodine is very difficult to remove.

Leather

Leather should be conditioned at least two to three times a year to keep it subtle and prevent cracking. Mary Moppins Leather and Vinyl Cleaner both cleans and conditions leather and vinyl in one easy step. It is the only leather cleaner I tested that removes the soil from deep inside the crevices of leather or vinyl.

Lipstick

Read the general stain removal guidelines.

First rub on our Liquid Dish Washing detergent. After an hour rinse with cool water. That should remove most of the lipstick. Repeat is necessary. Rinse with vinegar and water then cool water.

A concentrated orange cleaner will also remove lipstick. Make sure it does not contain petroleum distillates. If the clothing has gone through the dryer, the stain is probably permanent. At this point try using straight hydrogen peroxide to remove any color. Peroxide won't remove the lipstick only the stain that remains.

Magic Marker

When the label reads permanent, that means permanent. You will absolutely marvel how easily our Ion-A-Clean removes permanent magic marker. The negatively charged ions encapsulate the stain forcing it to release from the fabric. Spray it on, wait 45 to 60 seconds then blot to remove.

Ion-A-Clean even removes permanent marker from wood. Follow the above directions. If the mark is deep into the wood it may be necessary to lightly sand the wood with very fine sandpaper. Then use Mary's Wood cleaner and conditioner to restore the wood.

Mascara

Remove mascara with petroleum jelly. Gently rub on and let it set 15 to 30 minutes. Mineral spirits also removes waterproof mascara. Rinse with soapy water and launder.

Methiolade – See Iodine

Milk

Since milk is difficult to completely remove from carpeting, it begins offending your nose within a few short days. Grab our bottle of Bac-Out and pour enough on the spot to thoroughly saturate to the padding. Bac-Out is an enzyme product that literally "eats" the bacteria that causes the smell. It removes both the stain and the smell. It also works exceptionally well on urine and feces, vomit and all food or bacteria causing products.

Alternately you can mix one part white vinegar to 4 parts water then saturate the carpet. Vinegar will remove the milk but it is not as affective removing the bacteria as Bac-Out. Milk does hit the padding and spreads. So treat an area twice as large as the surface stain.

Use the Bac-Out prior to using vinegar.

Clothing: immediately rinse in sudsy water then soak in cool water and vinegar. Allow to set 10 to 15 minutes and rinse with plain water.

Mold/Mildew

Bathroom ceilings, tile, grout: Head to a medical supply store or beauty supply store for a bottle of 20 to 30% hydrogen peroxide. You may also need the activator. Peroxide purchased in a drug or grocery store contains only 3% peroxide and isn't strong enough to kill mold. Spray the peroxide on the mold. Wait 24 hours and retreat if necessary. Remember to remove towels before spraying. Peroxide is bleach and could discolor the towels or carpeting. Rinsing is not necessary.

Musty smelling clothes can be hung in the sun to air out. If the clothes are colorfast fill the washer with cool water, add 1 cup of peroxide and allow to set 30 minutes. Wash and air-dry in the sun. Heat will set the smell of mold so air dry to make certain the mold has been completely killed.

Treating a home for mold can be dangerous. Generally it is safe but some molds can be deadly. If your home has flooded, or has mold building on outside walls –not the interior walls- call your insurance agent and have your home checked for toxic mold. Then call a professional janitorial service who specializes in removing molds.

Most janitorial supply store can recommend a good professional cleaning firm.

Wood: If possible place the piece of furniture in the sun for several day bringing the furniture inside at night. Again peroxide is the safest product to use for killing mold on wood. Mix a 50 - 50 solution of 3% peroxide to water, wipe on and rinse with a vinegar and water solution. Unfortunately the peroxide will bleach the wood. Sanding and refinishing the wood is the best treatment for moldy wood.

Patio furniture: Mix a 1 to 4 solution of peroxide to water if the peroxide is a 20% peroxide. A 3% peroxide solution can be used undiluted. If the furniture is fabric test a spot first for color fastness. Wipe on then wait 30 to 60 minutes and rinse. Then set the furniture in the direct sun for a day. Finish by cleaning with sudsy water.

Decks, siding and roofs: The best method to remove mold on these surfaces is to rent a power washer. They spray the deck with a 50 - 50 solution of 20% hydrogen peroxide (beauty supply stores carry it) and water to help prevent future mold buildup. For decks rinse well to remove the peroxide. Otherwise the deck will need to be stained, which may be necessary anyway.

Nail Polish

Follow the general stain removal guide.

Use a non-acetone fingernail polish remover. Dab on wait 30 minutes and rinse with vinegar and water. If the acetone fails to remove the polish, try some brake cleaner or cigarette lighter fluid. After the stain has been removed, dab on some liquid dish soap wait 10 minutes and rinse.

Paste Wax

Follow the general stain removal guide.

Do take warning if you attempt to remove paste wax from an automobile, the petroleum distillates will also remove the original sealant.

Paste wax needs a petroleum distillate or a concentrated orange cleaner to dissolve the residue. Hardware stores carry a product called GooGone or Goop Off or DeSolvIt that work quite well. These products contain petroleum distillates, which can discolor wood or wallboard.

Generously blot on the cleaner. Wait for an hour then blot to remove. Do not rub to remove, reapply the cleaner if necessary. Then apply liquid dish soap to remove the cleaner and rinse with vinegar and water.

Hardwood floors: Call a company specializing in restoring hardwood floors.

Paint

Turpentine generally removes paint stains on most surfaces. Do remember turpentine is difficult to remove from clothing and can spontaneously combust on a cloth of any kind.

Always take every caution when disposing of cloths saturated with turpentine.

Blot on and wait 30 minutes to an hour. Blot and repeat. Rinse with sudsy water and then vinegar and water.

Use our Scrape It to scrape off what paint you can on a hard surface. Then apply the turpentine to finish removing the paint. Work outside or open and thoroughly ventilate the room.

On clothing try soaking in very hot water to soften the paint. Then immediately apply a concentrated orange cleaner and allow to set several hours. If that fails then apply some foaming shaving cream. Wait 24 hours then rinse. It does work!

Perspiration stains

Do not use this method on silk, wool or dry clean only fabrics. Always test a spot first for color fastness. Hydrogen peroxide is bleach, it's safe but it is bleach and could discolor the fabric.

Often using household bleach only causes stains to worsen. Hydrogen peroxide will not cause those problems. If you use a 3% peroxide found at grocery and drug stores it can be used full strength. Often a 50 -50 solution of peroxide to water works just as well. If you use a 20 to 30% solution then dilute with water 1 part peroxide to 5 to 6 parts water.

Pour the peroxide on the stain and allow to set 30 minutes. Then wash as normal using cool water. Air dry to make sure the stain has been completely removed. Heat sets a stain making it difficult to remove. If the stain is still present after 30 minutes use the peroxide full strength.

If the shirt has odors as well as stains, then fill a sink with cool water adding 2 cups of peroxide and one-half cup of baking soda. Wait 30 minutes and launder.

Petroleum Jelly

Read the general stain removal guide.

Remove petroleum jelly immediately. It is an oil based product and the longer it sets it will leave a permanent discoloration.

Clothing: Blot and apply liquid dish soap then wait 30 minutes to an hour. Rinse and repeat if necessary.

Wood: Blot off what you can taking care not to spread the jelly. Pour on some cornstarch and wait an hour. Sweep off and repeat if needed. Rinse with a barely damp towel. If any jelly remains blot with liquid dish soap, wait 5 minutes then rinse with vinegar and water. After the wood has dried treat it with Mary Moppins Wood Cleaner and Conditioner.

Rust

Fabric, cloth furniture and carpet: Squeeze enough juice from a fresh lemon to thoroughly saturate the spot. Generously sprinkle on some salt and let that set 24 hours. Rinse with cool water and repeat is needed. Refresh the lemon juice once or twice during that time.

Metal surfaces: Treat metal immediately. It's easier to treat a small spot than to sand and repaint. Navel jelly dissolves small rust spots. WD40 and DeSolvIt work quite well. There are several excellent rust removers at the hardware stores. After the rust has been removed, rinse with sudsy water, dry thoroughly and paint with a rust preventive paint.

Sap

Automobile: Using a petroleum distillate on a car will remove the sealant. Use baby oil or vegetable oil first and give it an hour to loosen the sap. Repeat if needed. If this does not remove the sap then use mineral oil. Rinse immediately using a damp soft cotton cloth and a squirt of liquid dish soap added. Then rinse with a vinegar and water solution followed by plain vinegar.

Clothing: Often times the oil from peanut butter will remove tree sap. Dab on a good bit of it giving it an hour to loosen the sap. Repeat if needed. If that doesn't work then use DeSolvIt found at various department stores. Always test a spot first.

Furniture or decks: same as clothing.

Hair or hands: gently rub baby oil, or vegetable oil on the sap. Give the oil 5 to 10 minutes to loosen the sap and wash with warm sudsy water. Repeat if needed. A nonabrasive hand cleaner from an automotive store called Go Jo also does a good job on tree sap as well as oil and grease. Rub in and give it 15 to 30 minutes to work then thoroughly rinse with vinegar and water.

Shoe Polish

Wood: The polish works into the grain of the wood and will be impossible to completely remove. Always put plastic down when working with shoe polish. First try blotting the polish with rubbing alcohol. Wait 15 minutes and blot to remove. Alcohol removes some shoe polishes but not all of them.

If that does not bring the desired results then apply a bit of turpentine. If the polish remains it has soaked into the grain and the wood must be sanded and refinished. Treat with Mary Moppins Wood Cleaner and Conditioner to help restore the wood

Fabric: Try using rubbing alcohol then DeSolvIt found at hardware stores. Apply wait 30 minutes rinse with sudsy water then vinegar and water. Remember shoe polish is generally permanent and can be very difficult to remove. Prevention is wise when applying polish.

Soot

Fireplace fronts: Generally soot can be removed by first washing the bricks with a strong detergent like Non TSP found at most paint stores and a good stiff bristled brush. After cleaning (be sure to put down plastic to protect all surfaces) spray the bricks thoroughly with a can of foaming bath cleaner. Saturate the bricks thoroughly and wait 30 minutes. Then wash again with the non TSP. Bricks are very porous and most cleaners saturate through the bricks. A foaming bath cleaner adheres to the surface of the bricks giving the cleaner time to dissolve the soot.

Walls: Our Dry Sponge quickly removes soot from walls without leaving a residue or causing you to deal with messy liquids. The sponge is used dry and wiped across the wall. This is the same way professional cleaners wipe down walls after a house fire.

Furniture: First wipe the furniture with the Mary Moppins dry sponge. Use the sponge dry and keep moving it so as not to spread the soot to other parts of the couch.

Then clean the couch with a foaming furniture cleaner testing an inconspicuous spot first. If your furniture is becoming dirty from soot, you might want to invest in some bath towels and cover the furniture. It's much easier and cheaper to wash towels than the couch.

Tar

Read the general stain removal guidelines.

Tar requires a petroleum distillate or a concentrated orange cleaner to dissolve the sticky residue. Department stores carry a product called DeSolvIt that works quite well. Do test a spot first.

Generously blot on the cleaner. Wait for an hour then blot to remove. Do not rub to remove, reapply the cleaner if necessary. Then apply liquid dish soap to remove the cleaner and rinse with vinegar and water.

Urine

Carpet: When urine hits the padding in carpet it spreads. What looks like a small stain on the surface is twice that large on the padding. Always treat an area two to three times as large as the surface stain. Otherwise the odor remains and the pet continues to return to the same spot. Pour on plenty of Bac-Out, which is an enzyme product that not only gets rid of the stain but the odor as well. The enzymes "eat" the odor causing bacteria

Furniture: Unfortunately the urine soaks into the padding and it's generally best to replace the padding. If you have young ones at home, use a plastic table cloth and turn it fuzzy side up. When an accident occurs the fuzzy part catches the urine and the plastic side protects the couch.

First remove as much of the urine from the couch as you can with a wet or dry vac. Then soak the seat cushion with Bac-Out .

Mattresses: Again with small children, use a plastic cover to protect the mattress. Follow the instructions for furniture. Mattresses can be professionally cleaned for best results.

Clothing: Immediately soak in sudsy water with one half cup of vinegar and one fourth cup of baking soda added to the water. Rinse and air dry to make certain you completely removed the stain.

Washing Clothes

Do your white clothes appear dingy even though you bleach them? Bleach causes the discoloration. Add one-half to 1 cup of hydrogen peroxide per regular washer. The first time allow the clothes to soak in the washer for 30 minutes. Then wash normally only use less detergent. White clothes return to their normal brightness and colored cloths perk up as well. Add one-fourth cup of baking soda to your washer for additional freshness.

Back to basics on laundry. Begin filling your washer with water (not for front loading machines.) Add your detergent and peroxide then the clothes. The detergent can't clean unless it dissolves. Switch to liquid detergents for front loading washers.

Fill your tub only three-fourths full. Clothes clean by the agitating action amongst themselves. Crowd them and this cleaning action comes to a halt. Pretreat most stains with a dab of liquid dish soap. Add a few squirts to a spray bottle filled with water. It's cheaper than prewash sprays, works better too.

Remember heat sets stains. Don't dry clothes unless the stain is gone.

Wax

Always place a candle on a candleholder. Candles sweat and leave stains on any hard surface. Never move a burning candle. Wait until the wax has solidified. Burn smokeless candles only. The soot from candles is quite difficult to remove. Soy candles do not put off smoke and usually do not contain lead wicks, which are toxic to your lungs.

Candlesticks: Place in the freezer for one to two hours. The wax chips right off.

Carpet, fabric or leather sofa and chairs: Freeze the wax first with an ice cube and scrape off what you can with our Scrape It. Grab an all white paper towel. Set your hair dryer to the hottest setting and heat the wax wiping up the wax as it melts with the paper towel. Do not use an iron on carpet. Many of the carpets are made from Oliphen, which is plastic. The heat from the iron scorches the carpet. It cannot be repaired. A hair dryer works and is quite safe to use.

Clothing: Freeze the wax with ice. Chip off as much wax as possible with our Scrape It. Place the clothing on top of a paper bag containing no printing. Then put an all white paper towel on top of the wax. Set the iron to medium and iron over the wax. The iron

melts the wax into the paper towel. If you use a paper towel or bag with printing the heat from the iron sets the ink into the fabric.

Hard surface including wood furniture: Place a piece of wax paper over the wax and set your iron to medium hot. Iron the wax for a few seconds. The wax from the wax paper melts the wax and lifts it from the surface. If there is a stain remaining, use a remover found at most candle stores. Follow bottle directions. If the stain remains, it's permanent. Treat the wood immediately with Mary Moppins Wood Cleaner and conditioner.