

Spot and Stain Removal Procedures

The first action, in the event of any spill, is to remove the excess material as quickly as possible. Solids consisting of large pieces may be picked up or swept up. Dusty solids are best removed by vacuuming with a “beater bar” machine. Very thick liquids or gelatinous substances should be scooped up with a spoon having smooth edges. Move the spoon from the outside toward the center of the spill to avoid spreading the material. The area should then be blotted by pressing a white towel against the carpet to remove the excess liquid.

Spills of thin water should be immediately absorbed by BLOTTING with a white towel. Change these frequently, as they become saturated. After most of the liquid has been removed, press a fresh absorbent pad firmly against the carpet with your foot for a minute or two to squeeze any remaining material into the pad. NEVER scrape or scrub the carpet.

After this immediate treatment, refer to the stain chart which follows and find the stain or one similar to it. Following each stain designation, you will find a letter that refers to the removal procedure recommended for the remainder of the spot. Turn to the removal procedures and you will find the material to use and the sequence to follow listed under each heading.

Pre-test your carpet by dampening a small spot in an inconspicuous location with the solution you plan to use. Blot the damp area with the white towel or tissue and look for any color absorbed onto the tissue or any color change on the carpet. If either of these is noticed, consult your professional carpet cleaner before trying to remove the spot.

Apply the solution sparingly in the order given in the procedures, using a CLEAN CLOTH or a “squeeze” bottle. DO NOT OVER WET! Avoid contact of cleaning chemicals with skin or clothing. Begin application around the outside of the spot, working toward the center. When blotting is specified, press a clean white cloth each time. If wiping of the carpet surface is unavoidable, do it gently and wipe from the outside of the spot toward the center. You may also gently tap a hard or crusty spot with the smooth edge of a spoon to help break it up. DO NOT SCRAPE OR RUB THE SPOT.

The last step shown in most procedures is to rinse and blot the cleaned area. Do this by applying a small amount of plain water and then blotting thoroughly. This may be repeated once. After the last rinse, place a thick pad (1/2” of clean white towels or tissue over the wet area and press down firmly with a heavy weight for about two hours.

Remove the towels and examine the bottom layer for staining. If some stain is still evident on both the carpet and the towels, allow the area to dry until slightly damp and repeat the removal procedure. If some stain remained on the carpet but none was absorbed by the towels, repeating the treatment will not remove any more of the stain. Call a professional carpet cleaner if your treatment was not effective or if you have any doubt about how to remove the stain.

Spot cleaning with water solutions may leave the pile of some types of carpets in a crushed state. If this occurs, gently lift the tufts with your fingertips after removing the weighted towels and again after the area has thoroughly dried.

Spot and Stain Removal

Carpet is a textile fabric and we all know that fabrics may be stained by materials spilled on them. A spill does not have to be a disaster...but it can be if you fail to give it prompt attention.

There are many instructions, much advice and lots of products sold for the removal of spots from fabric. These are all necessary and helpful but the real "secret to success" is being prepared to clean up the spill quickly. PROMPT ATTENTION IS THE MAJOR FACTOR IN SUCCESSFUL SPOT AND STAIN REMOVAL, particularly for spilled materials that are corrosive or contain strong coloring agents.

Most spills can be removed if attended promptly. Some will respond slowly slow be patient, and some will require removal by a professional cleaner. A few stains will be permanent, but even here, all is not lost. If you have saved some scraps left over when the carpet was installed, your professional cleaner may be able to replace the damaged area.

Summary of Stain Removal

1. Prepare a stain removal "kit"
2. Pre-test the Solutions on your carpet
3. Treat spills immediately. Minutes count!
 - A. Remove excess of spilled material.
 - B. Select stain treatment procedure from Chart A.
 - C. Follow the selected procedure as given in Table 1

Stain Removal Equipment

Keep this material readily available as your carpet "First Aid Kit"

1. Detergent – Diluted solution of mild hand washing detergent without oily skin conditioners.
2. Ammonia – Undiluted household ammonia
3. Vinegar – Undiluted WHITE vinegar
4. Solvent – Dry-cleaning solvent (spot remover)
5. Blotting Materials – White cloth, paper towels, or tissues.

A medicine dropper or a plastic squeeze bottle of the type used for dispensing mustard, ketchup, or some brands of hair color are convenient means of application. If you store your solutions in these bottles, be sure to label them. Please keep them out of the reach of children.

Stain Removal Procedures

| Spot or Stain | Removal Procedures | Spot or Stain | Removal Procedures |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Asphalt | A | Ink-Permanent | E |
| Beer | D | Ink-Printer's Mimeo | A |
| Berries | D | Lacquer | C |
| Blood | B | Lard | A |
| Butter | A | Linseed Oil | A |
| Candy | D | Machine Oil | A |
| Carbon Black | A | Mascara | A |
| Catsup | B | Mayonnaise | B |
| Cement, Model | K | Mercurochrome | E |
| Chewing Gum | G | Methiolate | E |
| Charcoal | A | Milk | B |
| Cheese | B | Mimeo Correction Fluid | C |
| Chocolate | B | Mixed Drinks | D |
| Coffee | D | Nail Polish | K |
| Cooking Oil | A | Paint-Latex | A |
| Cough Syrup | E | Paint-Oil Base | A,P |
| Crayon | A | Rubber Cement | A |
| Crème De Menthe | F | Rust | P |
| Dye: Green, Blue, Black | F | Shellac | I |
| Dye: Red | E | Shoe Polish-Liquid | A,P |
| Earth | B | Shoe Polish-Paste | A |
| Egg | B | Shortening | A |
| Excrement | B | Soft Drinks | D |
| Fish Slime | B | Solder-Liquid | P |
| Food Color | P | Soy Sauce | B |
| Foundation/Make-Up | A | Starch | B |
| Fruit Juices | D | Tar | A |
| Furniture Polish | A | Tea | D |
| Furniture Polish w/Satin | H,P | Tooth Paste | B |
| Gravy | A | Typewriter Ribbon | A |
| Hair Oil | A | Urine | J |
| Hair Spray | A | Varnish | C |
| Hand Lotion | A | Vaseline | A |
| Household Cement | K | Wax-Candle | G |
| Ice Cream | B | Wax-Paste | A |
| Ink-Ball Point | A | White Glue | B |
| Ink-Fountain Pen | F | Wine | D |
| Ink-India | A | | |
| Ink-Marking Pen | A | | |

Removal Procedures

NOTE: Use these procedures only after as much of the material as possible, has been removed by blotting or scooping up the excess.

| Procedure A | | Procedure B | Procedure C |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Apply Solvent | | Detergent | Apply Solvent |
| Blot | | Blot | Detergent |
| Detergent | | Ammonia | Blot |
| Blot | | Blot | Water |
| Water | | Detergent | Blot |
| Blot | | Blot | |
| | | Water | |
| | | Blot | |
| Procedure D | | Procedure E | Procedure F |
| Detergent | | Detergent | Detergent |
| Blot | | Blot | Blot |
| Vinegar | | Ammonia | Vinegar |
| Detergent | | Blot | Blot |
| Blot | | Vinegar | Ammonia |
| Water | | Blot | Blot |
| Blot | | Detergent | Water |
| | | Blot | Blot |
| | | Water | |
| | | Blot | |
| Procedure G | | Procedure H | Procedure I |
| Freeze w/ice cube | | Apply Solvent | Denatured Alcohol |
| Shatter w/blunt object | | Wait several minutes | Blot |
| Vacuum up chips | | Blot | Repeat if necessary |
| Apply solvent | | Detergent | NOTE: Pre-test as for other solutions |
| Wait several minutes | | Blot | |
| Blot | | Water | |
| Repeat if necessary | | Blot | |
| Procedure J | | Procedure K | Procedure P |
| Fresh | Dry | Polish remover (non-oily) | Signifies that the stain will definitely require professional removal. |
| Blot | Detergent | | |
| Water | Blot | | |
| Blot | Vinegar | | |
| Ammonia | Blot | | |
| Blot | Ammonia | | |
| Detergent | Blot | | |
| Blot | Detergent | | |
| Water | Blot | | |
| Blot | Water, Blot | | |