

## **Stain Removal Tips and Tricks**

Whether you spilled, the kids smeared, or your husband dribbled, stains are the worst!

Before you toss out that cute top or your favorite pants, check out these helpful stain removing tips. These laundry pre-treatments are tried-and-true, passed on through three generations of our family...proven to remove even the toughest stains!

With a little patience and TLC, your clothes will be looking good as new.

## **Supplies to Keep on Hand**

- ✓ Fels-Naptha Soap (Target, Walmart, Dollar Store, online)  
Removes greasy, oil stains; perspiration; ring-around-collar; chocolate; baby formula; makeup.
- ✓ Hydrogen Peroxide  
This is a gentle bleaching agent.
- ✓ Ronsonol (Walgreens, Ace Hardware, online)  
Removes grease spots. Pour it onto a towel and apply to the spot. Rub briskly in a circular motion until it evaporates. Reapply if needed.
- ✓ Out White Brite Fabric Bleach (Bed,Bath & Beyond, Lowe's, Walmart)  
This is great for whites. Follow directions on the bottle and soak for 15 minutes or longer.
- ✓ Mrs. Stewart's Blueing  
Bleaches white clothes safely. Follow directions on the bottle.
- ✓ Oxi-Clean Stain Remover  
Works well on many stains. Use a half scoop per quart of water.
- ✓ Clorox Oxi-Magic + Spray n Wash Stain Remover  
Spray BOTH together on stains like ring-around-color or dirt.
- ✓ Lemi Shine Dishwasher Detergent Booster (Walmart, Target, Ace Hardware)  
Removes tough spots and film, even in hard water.

## How to Remove Some Common Stains

**Blood:** Soak in cold water. If stain remains, pour hydrogen peroxide directly on the stain; let it bubble and continue soaking the item a little longer. Rinse and launder as usual.

**Candle Wax:** Scrape off excess wax. Lay the item between paper towels and press with a warm iron. Pour a little Ronsonol onto a towel and sponge the spot until it's clean.

**Ketchup:** Rub with Fels-Naptha soap and soak in cool water for 30 minutes. Launder as usual.

**Chewing Gum:** Place garment in a bag and put it in the freezer. Scrape off the hardened gum and sponge the spot with Ronsonol. Launder as usual.

**Chocolate:** Soak in cold water and wash in hot sudsy water. Bleach with hydrogen peroxide if necessary, or rub with Fels-Naptha soap. Launder as usual.

**Fruit:** Rinse in cold running water and wash in hot water.

**Coffee/Tea:** Pour boiling water through the stain and wash as usual. If stain remains, use hydrogen peroxide and launder again.

**Old Tea Stains:** I try this on the most stubborn stains. Wear rubber gloves for this! Combine  $\frac{3}{4}$  gallon of warm water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup hydrogen peroxide,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup laundry soap, and  $\frac{1}{16}$  cup of dishwasher detergent. Soak for 6 hours or more. Rinse with cold water.

**Egg or Meat Stains:** Soak in cold water (do NOT use warm water). If stain remains, use hydrogen peroxide.

**Grease:** Dab the stain with Ronsonol and rub briskly in a circular motion until the Ronsonol evaporates. If necessary, pour more Ronsonol or Fels-Naptha soap on the spot and rub the fabric together.

**Milk/Cream/Ice Cream:** Rinse under cold running water and wash in hot water.

**Mustard:** Rub glycerine into the spot and wash in hot water. Or rub with Fels-Naptha soap and soak in hot water. Launder as usual.

**Soft Drinks:** Sponge with equal parts of rubbing alcohol and glycerine (or lukewarm water). Launder as usual.

**Crayon:** Launder in very hot water (whites) or warm water (colors).

**Fingernail Polish:** Sponge gently with nail polish remover and launder as usual.

**Ink:** Spray hairspray on the spot and rub briskly. Continue spraying until the spot is gone. Launder as usual.

**Mildew:** Wash in hot water. If stain remains, moisten with lemon juice; sprinkle salt onto the spot and set it in the sun for 30 minutes or more. Launder as usual.

**Lipstick:** Rub with lard (or Crisco shortening) and blot with a clean rag until the lipstick color transfers onto the rag. Wash in hot water.

**Paint:** Scrape off fresh paint. Soften dry paint with oil and gently sponge with paint thinner. Wash in hot water.

**Rust:** Apply lemon juice and salt. Set it in the sun for a few hours. Launder as usual.

**Scorch Spot:** If you accidentally scorch an item while ironing, apply hydrogen peroxide to the spot and wash in hot water.