

# ***Cleaning Tips from Wash –n- Dry Laundromat***

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## ***Gum Removal from Clothing***

Place clothing in plastic bag and put in freezer. Scrape off frozen gum.

## ***Keep Dark Jeans from Fading***

To prevent dark jeans from fading soak them in 4 tbsp. of vinegar mixed with 5 quarts of water for about 30 minutes and before wash and wash them inside out.

## ***Refresh Black Clothing***

You can refresh your black clothes by adding strong coffee, or tea (2 cups) to the rinse water. They should return to their original dark black state. To prevent future fading, wash them in cold water, with Ivory Flakes plus combined with a small quantity of detergent.

## ***Restore Whites***

You should be able to restore your clothes to white by soaking them in lukewarm water and color safe or oxygen bleach for 24 hours, then rinse them with vinegar and water. Use one tablespoon of vinegar to one quart of water. After treating them overnight, wash them in hot water with chlorine bleach added. This should revive them to their original white state.

## ***Grass Stain Removal from Clothing***

Saturate the stained area with rubbing alcohol or diluted hydrogen peroxide before washing. Or, try putting liquid dishwashing detergent on the stain, let sit for ten minutes then launder.

## ***Cooking Oil Stain Removal from Clothing***

Treat the stain with a dishwashing detergent that is formulated to remove grease. Rub it into the stain, let sit for a few minutes, and then wash as usual. Waterless mechanic's soap (from an auto-parts store) is also very effective at cutting grease. Grease is very effective at removing grease, so you could also rub Crisco into the stain, then launder.

## ***Tea and Coffee Stain Removal from Clothing***

For a fresh tea or coffee stain, immediately pour boiling water over the stain until it disappears. Or, soak the stain with borax and water, then wash as usual. On old stains, make a paste of borax and water, leave on for 15 minutes, then wash as usual.

## ***Remove Gasoline Odor from Clothing***

Place the clothing in a large bucket of cold water. Add two cans of coke to the water and a box of baking soda. Allow the clothes to soak for 24 hours. Then, hang the clothes to air dry. Finally, launder the dry garments as usual.

## ***Eliminating Static Cling***

To eliminate static cling from clothing, stroke the garment with a wire hanger. Do the same for your hair if static in your hair is also a problem.

## ***Lipstick Stain Removal from Clothing***

Apply some non-gel toothpaste to the mark. Rub the toothpaste well into the garment, let stand for 15 minutes, and then wash as usual. Another option is to apply an ammonia and water solution to the mark, let stand for 15 minutes, and then wash as usual.

## ***Makeup and Foundation Stain Removal from Clothing***

To remove makeup stains, rub shampoo or dish detergent (preferably a grease cutting formula), or shampoo into the stain. You could also try spraying with hairspray or using a non-oily makeup remover to remove the stain. Then, launder as usual.

## ***Salad Dressing Removal from Clothes***

To remove salad dressing from your clothes, you can try rubbing the stain with a liquid enzyme detergent, such as Era, then soak in cold water, with laundry presoak added, for up to 30 minutes or until the stain is removed, rubbing the stain lightly with your fingers periodically during soaking.

## ***Egg Stain Removal from Clothing***

To remove an egg stain, cover the area with salt and let sit an hour, and then wash as usual.

## ***Whiten Yellowed Silk***

First, ensure that your fabric is washable. Soak the article in warm water with a few denture tablets overnight, and then launder as usual. Another option is to combine a tablespoon each of white vinegar, salt, and water softener with one pint of water, dip area up and down in solution, rinse well and launder. Or, rub white non-gel toothpaste into the spot and wash in cold water. If the fabric is dry-clean only, you will need to have it dry-cleaned.

## ***Detergent Stains on Clothing***

To remove undiluted detergent or fabric softener stains, try rubbing them with a bar of soap, and washing again, or soaking them in undiluted white vinegar until the spots disappear, at least 15 minutes. Vinegar is excellent at dissolving soap residue. Launder as usual, and don't worry, any vinegar smell will wash right out. If this doesn't work, you could try wetting the stains, and rubbing them with a liquid dish detergent designed to remove grease. To prevent this from happening in the future, try adding the detergent as the machine is filling, and do not add the clothes until after the machine is filled and starts to agitate.

## ***Smoke Odor from a Fire Removal from Clothing or Drapes***

To remove the smoke odor left in clothing from a fire, add 1 cup of washing soda, 1/4 cup ammonia and 1/2 cup of vinegar to the wash load. Be sure not to add bleach, as it will react with the ammonia. You can also add 1/2 cup vinegar to the rinse to remove any lingering odor.

## ***Crayon Stain Removal from Clothing***

Scrape the stain with a butter knife to remove as much crayon as possible. Then, if you scrub it with non-gel toothpaste it should remove the stain.

## ***Grape Juice Stain Removal from Clothing***

Remove grape juice stains by mixing equal parts vinegar, water and dishwashing soap in a squeeze bottle. Shake, and work it into the spot. Let stand for 15 minutes and flush with water, and then launder as usual.

## ***Cranberry Juice Stain Removal from Clothing***

Apply a mixture of dishwashing liquid and vinegar, let sit for 15 minutes, then wash as normal.

## ***Get Rid of Mothball Odor on Your Clothing***

To remove mothball odor from clothing, you should first hang them outside in the fresh air for at least two days. After two days, place the clothing into the washing machine and add one or two cups of white vinegar to the soapy water. Lastly, hang the clothes outside to air dry and do not place them into clothes dryer until you are certain the mothball smell has been removed.

## ***Permanent Marker Stain Removal from Clothing***

Rinse the stains with cold water until the water runs clear. Place the fabric on a paper towel, and then saturate the stains with rubbing alcohol, using a cotton ball as a blotter. Change paper towels as necessary as it absorbs the color. Wash the garment in the hottest water possible for the fabric, adding bleach (color-safe for colored fabrics), then rinse in warm water. *Unfortunately, permanent marker cannot always be removed.*

## ***Mustard Stain Removal from Clothing***

Rinse in cold water. Then you can either wash the item in cold water while rubbing with laundry bar soap or rub a liquid enzyme detergent, such as Era, into the stain and allow it to sit for a few minutes. Soak 12 hours in soapy water. If necessary, you can try a bleach solution on white garments. Glycerin applied to the stains and allowed to sit for about an hour may remove stubborn mustard stains.

## ***Desitin Ointment / Zinc Oxide Stain Removal from Clothing***

Scrape off as much of the ointment as possible with a dull knife. Then, pour some baking powder on the spot, give it time to absorb the grease, and then brush off. Saturate the stain with liquid laundry detergent or a laundry stain remover and let stand for 15 minutes, launder as usual.

## ***Spaghetti or Tomato Sauce Stain Removal from Clothing***

To remove a tomato stain, try using an enzyme pre-soak spray. An enzyme pre-soak product is a stain remover that contains an enzyme which digest the stain in the same way that your body digests food. Two commercial brand names of this type of product are Biz and Axion, whichever brand you choose, ensure that it says enzyme on the label. Heat sets in spaghetti stains, so if you have put them in the dryer they are going to be difficult to get out. Although it is tempting to wash them in hot water, cold will work better. The only other stain treatment that you haven't already tried would be dry cleaning solvent. You could also try placing the stained item in the sink with cold water dripping on the stain. Leave overnight, with the drips falling directly on the stain. This should loosen the stain.

## ***Blood Stains***

Soak freshly stained linen in cold water for 30 minutes. Rub detergent into any remaining stain. Rinse, then launder. Dried stains should be pretreated or soaked in lukewarm water with a product containing enzymes, (like ERA) , and hydrogen peroxide, then launder. Note: If stain remains, rewash, using a fabric safe bleach.

## ***Blueberry Stain Removal from Clothing or Tablecloth***

This solution to removing your blueberry stains sounds crazy, but it does work. Stretch the stained areas over a bowl or a sink, then pour boiling water from a height of several feet above the cloth through the stain. Or, you can try using a commercial enzyme stain remover, or mix equal parts vinegar, water, and liquid dishwashing soap in a squeeze bottle, shake, and work into the spots. Let stand a few minutes, then launder.

## ***Color Bleeding Stain Removal***

To remove stains caused from dyes leeching from one article of clothing to another, you can purchase a product that is designed specifically for this purpose. It is called Rit Dye Fabric Treatment - Powder Color Remover and is available everywhere that you can buy fabric dyes. Soak in the color remover, then launder as usual.

## ***Red Wine Stain Removal from Clothing***

For fresh stains, saturate them with club soda, then wash. Or, you can apply a mixture of dishwashing liquid and vinegar. This is safe on all washable fabrics. Or, if your fabric is shrink proof, place it in a pot containing enough milk to cover the stain, bring to a boil, remove from heat, and let sit until the stain has disappeared.

## ***Milk Stain Removal from Clothing***

Soak the stained article in cold water. Launder in hot water using chlorine bleach, if safe for the fabric. If a grease stain remains, sponge with dry cleaning fluid then rinse, and then launder as usual.

## ***Sticker Adhesive Removal from Clothing***

To remove adhesive residue from clothing, first rub an ice cube on the adhesive to freeze it, then use a dull knife to scrape away any excess adhesive. Next, apply vegetable oil to the adhesive until the adhesive begins to loosen. Use a dull knife again to scrape away any excess adhesive. Rinse well with grease cutting detergent (such as dish detergent) and cold water. Continue to apply vegetable oil and rinsing with detergent and water until you've removed as much adhesive as possible.

Apply a laundry pre-soak, then launder as usual, but do not dry until all the adhesive and stains are gone, as heat sets stains. If any adhesive remains, place the clothing face down on an absorbent cloth and apply dry-cleaning fluid to the back of the stain/adhesive. Let the stain dry, then rinse thoroughly and launder as usual. *A commercial adhesive remover such as Goo Gone or Goof Off would also do the job.*

## ***Silly Putty Removal from Clothing***

You should be able to remove Silly Putty from clothing by placing the stain over a bowl and allowing gravity to pull out the Silly Putty. If it is more ground in, try freezing it by placing an ice cube in a bag and holding the bag over the stain, then chipping it off with a bread knife. If this doesn't work, try spraying the stain with WD-40 to loosen the Silly Putty and pull off the stain. Launder as usual.

## ***Candle Wax or Crayon***

Place the stained area between clean paper towels or pieces of a brown paper bag and press with a warm iron.

## ***Crayon Melted on Clothing in Dryer***

To remove crayon stains that have been melted onto clothing in the dryer, place the stained surface down on pad of paper towels, spray with WD-40, let stand a few minutes, turn fabric over and spray the other side. Apply liquid dishwashing detergent and work into the stained area, replacing towel as it absorbs the stain. Wash in hottest water possible with laundry detergent and bleach for about 12 minutes (use heavy soiled setting if there is no minute timer on your machine) and rinse in warm water. *Special Note: Heat sets stains so clean the drum of your dryer to remove any remaining wax residue by spraying a soft cloth with WD-40, and wiping the drum.*

## ***Ink Stain Removal from Leather***

An effective way to remove the ink stains on leather items is by using either hair spray or Armor All. Just spray the stain, and then wipe it with a soft cloth. *To be sure that this will not affect the dyes in your leather, be sure to try this in a non-visible area first.*

## ***Washing a Down Comforter***

First ensure that your comforter is not dry clean only. If your comforter can be washed in the machine, use a gentle cycle, a mild detergent and distribute the comforter evenly around the agitator. Dry the comforter in the dryer using a clean pair of sneakers, or three tennis balls, and a couple of dryer sheets to keep it smelling fresh. **DO NOT WASH DRY CLEAN ONLY COMFORTERS!**

## ***Fruit Stains***

Remove stain by stretching the stained area over a bowl and then pouring hot water from a height of several feet through the stain.

## ***Perspiration Stains on Clothing***

Treat with pre-wash stain remover, or dampen stain and rub with bar soap. If the color of the fabric has changed slightly, apply ammonia to fresh stain or white vinegar to old stains; rinse. Launder in hottest water safe for that fabric. Stubborn stains may respond to pre-treating with a product containing enzymes (like ERA), then launder using an all-fabric bleach.

## ***Removing Hem Creases***

White vinegar will help remove a permanent crease. Sponge the material liberally with the vinegar and press with a warm iron.

## ***Urine, Vomit, Mucous, or Feces Stains***

Treat with pre-wash spray or pre-treat with a product containing enzymes (like ERA). Launder with chlorine bleach that is safe for fabric, or use an all-fabric bleach.

## ***Fuzz Balls***

Remove those little balls of fuzz from an old shirt collar by going over the surface with a clean shaver. It will not harm the fabric.

## ***Coffee***

Apply detergent solution. Blot. (Use enzyme detergent if cream was present.). Apply vinegar solution. Blot. Apply enzyme detergent. Blot. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

## ***Toothpaste***

Apply detergent solution. Blot. Apply vinegar solution. Blot. Apply ammonia solution. Blot. Rinse thoroughly with water. Blot until dry.

## ***Paint***

Apply detergent solution. Blot. Repeat as needed. Apply ammonia solution. Blot. Rinse with water. Blot until dry. Apply POG on aged, hardened paint. Blot. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. Repeat as needed.

## ***Ink***

Apply dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. Apply dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. Apply detergent solution. Blot. Apply ammonia solution. Blot. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

## ***Jam or Jelly***

Apply detergent solution. Blot. Apply vinegar solution. Blot. Rinse with water. Blot. Apply enzyme detergent. Blot. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

## ***Tobacco Stains***

Moisten stain and rub with bar soap; rinse. Pre-treat with stain stick or soak in an enzyme solution (like ERA). Launder. Note: If stain remains, launder again using chlorine bleach, if safe for fabric, or use oxygen bleach.

## ***Mildew Stains***

Launder stained items using chlorine bleach, if safe for that fabric. Otherwise, soak in an all-fabric bleach and hot water, then launder. If some stain remains, sponge with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse and re-launder. Dry in sunlight. Badly mildewed fabrics may be damaged beyond repair.

## ***Mud Stains***

Let dry, then brush off as much mud as possible; or rinse under running water and let soak overnight. For light stains, pre-treat with a paste of dry detergent and water, liquid detergent, or a liquid detergent booster; launder. Pre-treat heavy stains by presoaking with a laundry detergent, a product containing enzymes (like ERA), or a container of water with 1/4 cup each of ammonia and liquid detergent; launder. Red clay can be rubbed with a paste of vinegar and table salt. Leave for 30 minutes. Launder with hottest water safe for that fabric and bleach. Repeat if needed.

## ***Chocolate Stains***

Treat the stain with a pre-wash spray. If stain remains, re-launder with bleach

## ***Baby Formula Stains***

Pre-treat or soak stain using a product containing enzymes (like ERA); soak for at least 30 minutes or several hours for aged stains. Launder normally.

## ***Beverage Stains*** (soft drinks, alcoholic drinks)

Soak stain in cool water. Pre-treat with pre-wash stain remover, liquid laundry detergent, or a paste of powder detergent and water. Launder with fabric safe bleach. Note: Older stains might respond better to pretreatment with an enzyme product (like ERA) before laundering

## ***Tar***

Act quickly before stain dries. Use a dull knife to scrape excess tar from the fabric. Place stain face down on paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid. Replace towels frequently for better absorption. Launder, using hottest water safe for that fabric.

## ***Pine Resin***

Sponge the stain with cleaning fluid; let air dry. Rub with detergent and launder as usual. If stains persist, apply a few drops of household ammonia. Air dry. Launder, using liquid laundry detergent.

## ***Pollen Stains***

Sponge, then flush with dry-cleaning solvent. Let air dry. Rub gently with detergent. Launder as usual, using bleach that is safe for that fabric.

## ***Rust Stains***

Apply a commercial rust remover such as Rit Rust Remover. Follow manufacturer's instructions. Do not use chlorine bleach on rust

## ***Basic Stain Removal Supplies***

Ammonia

Alcohol

Baking Soda

Bar of Ivory Soap

Bleach

- Chlorine
- Non-Chlorine
- Hydrogen Peroxide

Crystal Salt (Epson Salt)

Detergent, Liquid

Detergent, Powder

Enzyme Pre-Soak, ERA

Enzyme Stain Sticks (Shout, Spray 'n Wash, etc.)

Rust Remover (Rit)

Sponge

Turpentine

White Vinegar

***WARNING : Always read the label for fabric content washing instructions.***

Treat stains properly. Fresh stains are easier to remove than old ones. If the stain is on a non-washable fabric, take it to the dry cleaner as soon as possible. Tell the dry cleaner the source of the stain.

Read and follow package directions when using any stain removal product. Always test stain removers on a napkin or other hidden part of the cloth for color fastness. To test, apply product and let stand 2-5 minutes, then rinse. If color changes, do not use product on fabric.

When using a bleach do not try to bleach just one area; bleach the entire tablecloth to prevent uneven color removal. When treating, place stained area face down on a clean paper towel or white cloth. Apply stain remover to the underside of the stain, forcing stain off the fabric surface instead of going through it. Never put chemical dry-cleaning solvents directly into the washer.

Thoroughly rinse and air dry areas treated with dry-cleaning solvents before placing in washer, to avoid fire. Do not mix stain removal products together. Some mixtures, such as ammonia and chlorine bleach, can produce noxious fumes. Always launder washable items after treating to remove residues of the stain and the stain remover. Have patience; it takes a little extra time and effort to remove some stains.

You will find that sprinkling ordinary table salt on particularly greasy stains the instant they happen, can profoundly reduce the chances of the stain setting. Likewise, soaking soiled table linens in a mild salt-water mixture immediately after use, can brighten their appearance, and make machine washing more effective.

