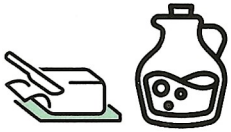


The Ultimate STAIN REMOVAL GUIDE



GREASE

(butter, oil, mayonnaise)

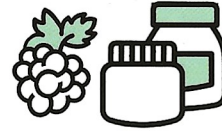
Start with a combination solvent. Follow up with mineral spirits or oil solvent if necessary.



PROTEIN

(blood, egg, grass)

Soak bloodstains in cold saltwater first. Use digestant. If necessary, flush with white vinegar or hydrogen peroxide, using an eyedropper, to remove color.



FRUIT & VEGETABLE

(juice, jam)

Start with denatured alcohol. Using an eyedropper, flush with white vinegar to remove remaining color, then dishwashing detergent to remove residue.



RED WINE

Use denatured alcohol, then with an eyedropper, flush with white vinegar for remaining color. For sturdy fabric, coat area with salt, hold over a bowl or the sink, and pour very hot water through the fabric from above.



HOT DRINKS

Using an eyedropper, flush with lemon juice (tea) or white vinegar (coffee) to remove color, then use stronger bleach if necessary. For sugar, flush with water. For milk, follow up with combination solvent.



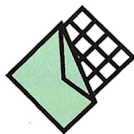
VINAIGRETTE

Use a combination solvent for grease, then, using an eyedropper, flush with white vinegar for color.



WAX OR GUM

Use ice to freeze wax or gum, or place item in freezer; scrape or crack off as much as you can, then use oil solvent or mineral spirits to remove residue.



CHOCOLATE

Start with a combination solvent for grease, then follow up with a digestant for protein, if necessary.



SAUCES

(tomato, ketchup, barbecue)

Scoop off excess. Use a combination solvent for grease. Then, using an eyedropper, flush with white vinegar for color.



FELT-TIP INK

Flush with denatured alcohol using an eyedropper; wash with dishwashing detergent.



BALLPOINT INK

Rub glycerin into area; let stand 15 to 20 minutes; wash with dishwashing detergent. Or spray with inexpensive hair spray, and flush with water.



LIPSTICK

Use a combination solvent to remove grease. Using an eyedropper, flush with white vinegar or a mild bleach to remove the remaining color.

MARTHA SAYS . . .

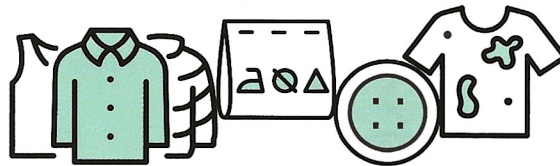
It's best to leave non-washable fabrics to the professionals • Always check the care label before you start • Test cleaning techniques on a hidden area • Blot the stain, rather than rubbing it • Work from the outside in to keep the spot from spreading

For washable fabrics only

MAKE YOUR CLOTHING LAST

Living MARTHA STEWART

SAVE TIME AND MONEY
WITH MARTHA'S BEST TIPS



SHOP SMART

Try to avoid items that need to be handwashed or dry-cleaned. Put most of your fashion budget into well-made, classic pieces.

CHECK WHEN YOU CHANGE

Evaluate your clothes before they land in the laundry pile. Address stains, lint or damage as soon as possible, and your clothes will always be at their best.

FIX PROBLEMS FIRST

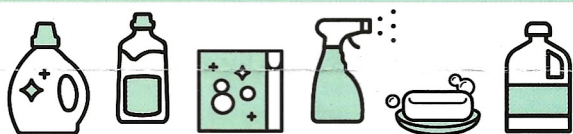
Flyaway threads, missing buttons and drooping hems will lead to further damage if not properly mended. Learn the basics of clothing repair, or find a reputable tailor.

WASH THE RIGHT WAY

Always follow the care labels. Dry clothes on a rack or towel when possible to keep pieces from fading, then smooth wrinkles with an iron or steamer.

STORE THEM WITH CARE

Fold sweaters and place them on shelves. Save wooden hangers for heavy coats, offer padded options to your delicate wovens, and attach pants to clips so they drape naturally.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO STOP THOSE SPOTS

COMBINATION SOLVENTS

(Shout, Spray 'n Wash)

All-purpose stain removers, good on greasy stains.

MINERAL SPIRITS

For greasy stains, like tar. Air out clothes after using.

DIGESTANTS

(Biz, Era Plus, Wisk)

Contain enzymes that "eat" protein stains, like grass and blood. Do not use on silk or wool.

OIL SOLVENTS

(K2r, Afta)

Dry-cleaning fluid, safe on nonwashables. Good for greasy stains. Use only on dry fabric in a well-ventilated area.

DETERGENT

A mild, clear liquid dishwashing detergent is an effective all-purpose cleaner. Apply it straight, wait five minutes, then flush or dab with water.

GLYCERIN

Particularly good for ballpoint ink.

ABSORBANTS

(cornstarch, talcum powder)

Sprinkle on fresh grease stains, wait 15 minutes, then scrape off and treat stain.

DENATURED ALCOHOL

Effective at breaking down some stains and evaporates without leaving a residue.

BLEACHES

Chlorine bleach, diluted with water, is to be used only as a last resort. Instead, remove the color left behind by stains with mild bleaches, like lemon juice; white vinegar (mixed 1:1 with water); 2 or 3 percent hydrogen peroxide; or ammonia (2 parts water to 1 part ammonia; do not use on wool or silk). Use a cotton swab to dab the bleach, or place paper towels under the fabric, and use an eyedropper to flush the area with the proper bleach.