



HOW TO REMOVE A STAIN... NO LONGER YOUR MOM'S JOB!

by Charles Beck

LET'S FACE IT; LIPSTICK STAINS DON'T COMPLEMENT ANY MAN'S SUIT. WHETHER YOU ARE AT THE OFFICE, A RESTAURANT OR THE OUTDOORS, CLOTHES ARE BOUND TO GET DIRTY. NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP AND MOM'S NOT TAKING CARE OF YOUR LAUNDRY, IT'S TIME TO LEARN HOW TO REMOVE COMMON STAINS ON YOUR OWN. JUST AS SCOTCH GOES WITH A NICE CIGAR, THESE TIPS SHOULD BE COMMON KNOWLEDGE OF A WELL-ROUNDED GENTLEMAN.

GENERAL RULES

Letting a stain sit too long will result in permanent damage. The quicker, the better. Treat a stain within moments after it happens. Don't treat each stain the same. The type of stain, fabric and color will determine which treatment method to use. Don't use heat. Never iron stained fabric or use hot water on stains. And don't dry stained particles, as heat makes it nearly impossible to remove.

Blot gently. No rubbing, folding, squeezing or wringing. Doing those might make the stain penetrate more deeply and ruin fabric. When treating a stain, work from the center of the stain outward to avoid leaving a ring around the cleaned area.

*Note: Always treat a stain before laundering and always read and check the clothing label.

STAINS

LIPSTICK HOME REMEDY: RUBBING ALCOHOL, AMMONIA, HAIRSPRAY, BABY WIPE

How to get rid of it: lipstick can be very complicated, just as the breed that wears it. Dab or blot the stain with rubbing alcohol, ammonia or hairspray. Do NOT rub. Rinse off with warm water.

RED WINE HOME REMEDY: SALT, WHITE WINE, CARBONATED SODA WATER

How to get rid of it: Douse stain with salt, submerge in cold water, blot until stain disappears and wash immediately.

BLOOD HOME REMEDY: AMMONIA, CLUB SODA, COLD WATER

How to get rid of it: Fresh Blood: Soak the garment in cold water with a dash of ammonia for 20 minutes. Dried Blood: use a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution.

INK HOME REMEDY: RUBBING ALCOHOL, HAIRSPRAY, A DRY CLOTH

How to get rid of it: on cotton fabrics, apply alcohol to the spot and then wash. on polyester fabrics, spray generously with hairspray and pat with a clean dry cloth, then wash your garment.

OIL HOME REMEDY: BABY POWDER, TALC POWDER

How to get rid of it: Cover stain with baby or talc powder immediately. let sit for a half hour. After, brush the powder off, treat with stain remover and wash garment in the hottest water the fabric can take.

FABRICS

COTTON: COTTON CAN ENDURE SOAKING, DRYING AND WARM WATER. BLEACHING WHITE COTTON CAN BE HARD ON THE FABRIC. BUT IF IT'S A MUST, USE DILUTED CHLORINE BLEACHES AS A LAST RESORT.

WOOL: More heat sensitive than cotton, treat wool gently. Wool can be soaked but has to lie flat during the drying process to prevent distortion. use only luke-warm water and wool-safe detergents.

SYNTHETICS: Polyester and rayon can be scrubbed and washed harsher than cotton, but bleaches like hydrogen peroxide will destroy the material.

SILK: Extremely complicated, treating silk with water is best. however, don't let the wet spot dry. Rinse the garment thoroughly to avoid water spotting. Another effective approach is glycerin stain remover.

We understand that it's not convenient to always rush home to remove stains from your clothes. so, consider purchasing an instant stain remover stick such as Tide to Go to throw in your Dopp kit and keep on-hand in your car. With a quick and easy application, it can take care of common food and drink stains.