

Stain Removal ~ Personal Care

Blood (dried)

For cotton and polyester: Soak garment in cool saltwater for a few hours. Rinse thoroughly. Mix one tablespoon of ammonia with ½ cup water. Apply solution to stain. Machine wash according to garment care label. If stain remains, mix a solution of ½ cup liquid laundry detergent per 1 gallon of water in a plastic bucket. Soak garment for up to 30 minutes. Rinse and machine wash again.

For washable silk and wool: Dab cold salt water onto stain. Flush with plain cold water. Use an eyedropper to apply a half-vinegar, half-water solution. Flush with cold water again. If stain remains, take garment to a dry cleaner.

Blood (wet)

For cotton and polyester: Flush the stain with cold water. Pre-treat spot with an enzyme treatment, such as Era Plus. Let sit for 30 minutes. Machine wash according to garment care label.

For washable silk and wool: Flush the stain with cold water. Use an eyedropper to apply a half-vinegar, half-water solution. Flush with cold water again. If stain remains, take garment to a dry cleaner.

Deodorant

For cotton and polyester: Brush off flakes and residue with a soft bristle brush or dry terrycloth towel. Pre-treat with liquid detergent and let sit for 30 minutes. Machine wash with double the recommended amount of detergent in the hottest water safe for the fabric. Air dry and repeat if necessary.

For washable silk and wool: Brush off flakes and residue with a soft bristle brush or dry terrycloth towel. Apply a half-vinegar half-water solution with an eyedropper. Flush with cool water. If stain persists, take garment to a dry cleaner.

Feces

For cotton and polyester: Rinse thoroughly with cold water. In a plastic bucket, mix a solution of ½ cup liquid laundry detergent with color safe bleach or bleach alternative per 1 gallon of water. Soak garment for up to 30 minutes. Machine wash according to garment care label. If stain remains, apply a half-vinegar half-water solution. Rinse and machine wash again.

For washable silk and wool: Flush stained area with cold water. Treat with a gentle liquid laundry detergent, such as Ivory Snow, and let sit 10 minutes. Apply water and rub until suds form. Flush with cold water again. Use an eyedropper to apply a half-vinegar, half-water solution. Flush with cold water again. If stain remains, take garment to a dry cleaner.

Hair dye

For cotton and polyester: Stretch fabric over a bowl. Mix one cup of household ammonia with one gallon warm water and pour over stain. If stain remains, let sit for 30 minutes – 4 hours. Rinse in warm running water. Machine wash in warm water. Air dry and repeat steps if necessary. This stain may be permanent.

For washable silk and wool: Take garment to a dry cleaner; this stain may be permanent.

Lipstick

For cotton and polyester: Scrape off any excess with a dull knife. Place garment stain-side down on a towel. Apply commercial stain remover specialized for oils, such as Carbona Stain Devil. Lipstick will bleed through onto towel. If stain remains, pre-treat with liquid laundry detergent. Rub in with water until suds form. Rinse thoroughly. Use an eyedropper to apply a half-vinegar, half-water solution. Machine wash according to garment care label.

For washable silk and wool: Same as for cotton and polyester, but air dry and take garment to a dry cleaner if stain remains.

Mascara

For cotton and polyester: Apply makeup remover recommended by the manufacturer. If stain persists, dampen spot and rub with a bar of soap. Machine wash according to garment care label.

For washable silk and wool: Same as for cotton and polyester, but air dry and take garment to a professional if stain remains.

Perspiration

For cotton and polyester: Pre-treat with liquid laundry detergent. Machine wash according to garment care label. If stain

persists, apply a half-vinegar half-water solution. Mix a solution of ½ cup liquid laundry detergent per 1 gallon of water in a plastic bucket. Soak garment for up to 30 minutes. Machine wash again in hottest water safe for fabric.

For washable silk and wool: Using an eyedropper, apply a half-vinegar half-water solution to the stain. Let sit 10 minutes. Flush with water. Repeat as necessary. Take garment to a dry cleaner if stain persists.

Sunscreen

For cotton and polyester: Apply spot remover to the stain according to package instructions. Pre-treat with liquid dish soap, such as Dawn. Machine wash according to garment care label.

For washable silk and wool: Same as cotton and polyester, but air dry and take garment to a dry cleaner if stain persists.

Urine

For cotton and polyester: Rinse in cold water to dilute the stain. Mix a solution of ½ cup liquid laundry detergent with bleach alternative per 1 gallon of water in a plastic bucket. Soak garment for up to 30 minutes. Machine wash with bleach alternative and 1 cup of baking soda in warm water.

For washable silk and wool: Flush stain with cool water. Treat with a gentle liquid laundry detergent, such as Ivory Snow, and let sit for 10 minutes. Apply small amount of water and rub until suds form. Flush with water again. Take garment to a dry cleaner if stain remains.

Vomit

For cotton and polyester: Rinse in cold water to dilute the stain. Mix a solution of ½ cup liquid laundry detergent with bleach alternative per 1 gallon of water in a plastic bucket. Soak garment for up to 30 minutes. Machine wash with bleach alternative and 1 cup of baking soda in warm water.

For washable silk and wool: Flush stain with cool water. Treat with gentle liquid laundry detergent, such as Ivory Snow, and let sit for 10 minutes. Apply small amount of water and rub until suds form. Flush with water again. Take garment to a dry cleaner if stain remains.