

ALCOHOL STAINS

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Alcohol is found in a number of substances. This includes perfume, toilet water and cologne. Hard drinks, wine and beer also contain alcohol. Alcohol can not only cause a difficult stain but can oxidize and discolor the dye and fiber of a fabric. This is why it is always advisable to apply deodorants and perfume before putting on the garment. Alcohol stains are often colorless and do not reveal themselves at time of contact. The discoloration often occurs when the stain is exposed to moisture in the atmosphere. Age and heat tend to develop the condition until the color of the fabric becomes permanently affected. Silk and acetate are the two fabrics most likely to be affected by a substance containing alcohol. Other fabrics can also be affected by not to the same extent. Alcohol stains may be tan or brown depending upon the extent of oxidation of the stain. Wine stains assume the color of the wine.

EMERGENCY TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOL STAINS

When alcohol contacts a fabric you should immediately take action. Dab the stain with just plain cool water. This will dilute and remove the alcohol from the fabric. Do not use hot water or soap and do not worry if part of the stain is left in the fabric. Your main concern is to remove the alcohol as quickly as possible.

DRYCLEANING

The drycleaning process does not remove alcohol stains. You must tell the drycleaner to pre-spot the affected areas.

ALCOHOL STAIN REMOVAL PROCEDURE

Preparation:

- (1) Mix 2 ounces of water with a few drops of a mild detergent.**
- (2) Plain water.**
- (3) White distilled vinegar.**
- (4) Household ammonia**
- (5) Hydrogen peroxide (3%)**
- (6) 6 q-tips.**
- (7) Clean towel**
- (8) Eye dropper**

Procedure:

- (1) Place stained area on a towel.**
- (2) Dab stain with plain cool water.**
- (3) Dab stain with detergent and water solution.**

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- (4) Dab stain with plain cool water.
- (5) Dab stain with detergent and water solution plus a few drops of household vinegar.
- (6) Dab stain with plain water to rinse area.
- (7) Add hydrogen peroxide.
- (8) Add ammonia.
- (9) Wait 5 minutes.
- (10) Dab with plain water.
- (11) Add a few drops of vinegar.
- (12) Dab area with plain water or wash.
- (13) CAUTION: Test hydrogen peroxide and ammonia for color safety on fabrics.

BATH METHOD FOR REMOVING ALCOHOL STAINS ON WHITE FABRICS

On difficult wine and other difficult alcohol stains which is covering a large area use the bath method.

Preparation:

- (1) 2 and ½ gallon plastic bucket.
- (2) Color safe bleach that contains sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate.
- (3) Household vinegar.
- (4) Mild detergent.

Procedure:

- (1) Plain warm water in bucket.
- (2) Add 2 ounces of color safe bleach per gallon of water.
- (3) Add ½ ounce of detergent per gallon of water.
- (4) Soak overnight.
- (5) Wash garment and use vinegar in the rinse water.