

## **BE A STAIN DETECTIVE (5)**

The crime shows on tv depict detectives solving crimes using clues and common sense. The consumer can also use clues and common sense for identifying stains. It is important to identify stains to avoid using wrong stain removal procedures which can possibly set the stain making it impossible to remove. Very often consumers may stain their garment and not know the origin or source of the staining matter.

### **STAIN IDENTIFICATION BY SIGHT**

- (A) The built up stain is one that is laid over the fabric. In appearance it may be caked or otherwise seem to be on top of the fabric. Examples are paint, food and mud. A characteristic of paint is that if you put water on the stain it appears to turn brighter because the fabric darkens.**
- (B) The absorbed stain is one in which the fabric weave is visible through the stain showing that the stain was carried to the fabric in a liquid which has been absorbed by the fabric. Examples are oil and colored liquids.**
- (C) Shape of the stain is also important for identification. For example oils tend to form a cross or T because the thick liquid follows the weave of the fabric. Stains like coffee, tea liquor and soft drinks tend to form a heavy brown circular ring.**
- (D) Shiny or dull stain is one that is readily apparent because of the difference in service finish between the stain and the rest of the fabric. Examples of this type of stain are paint, nail polish and certain foods.**

### **STAIN IDENTIFICATION BY COLOR**

Many spots and stains retain the color of the matter which caused the spot. By relating the color of the stain to the staining agent the consumer has a clue to the stains identity. For example a shiny black stain may be tar. Paint, nail polish and lipstick also retain their characteristic color.

### **STAIN IDENTIFICATION BY FEEL**

Feel can be helpful in identifying a stain. For example:

- (1) Candy may feel sticky.**
- (2) Wax may feel brittle.**
- (3) Paint and nail polish will feel hard and will not break up.**
- (4) Protein stains and starch will turn white when scratched.**
- (5) Lipstick will feel soft and will release color.**
- (6) Oil stains may feel oily.**

### **STAIN IDENTIFICATION BY LOCATION**

**The location of the spot or stain will be decisive in identifying it. Your ability to pick up clues will pay off here.**

- (A) Food stains found in front.**
- (B) Perfume and cosmetics usually found on the collar or neckline.**
- (C) Hard drinks normally found on front or sleeve.**
- (D) Gutter splash normally found on the cuff or hem.**
- (E) Perspiration found wherever the garment was worn close to the body.**
- (F) Lipstick usually found on the collar.**
- (G) Newspaper print may be found on the sleeve or pocket area.**
- (H) Mud or shoe dye may be found on the trouser cuff.**
- (I) Ink may be found near the pocket area.**

### **STAIN IDENTIFICATION BY ODOR**

**Some stains will emit an odor which will help to confirm your judgment. If the stain is old it will be less likely to give off an odor. Apply warm water to a stain. It will frequently heighten the odor. Typical examples of stains that you can smell are:**

- (1) Perfume**
- (2) Liquor, beer and wine**
- (3) Blood**
- (4) Coffee**
- (5) Perspiration**