

DIFFICULT YELLOW STAINS (OIL) (23)

We can pick up any health magazine and be confronted with information concerning the health risks and nutritional value of fat and oil. The terms that we have become familiar with are polyunsaturated and natural oils. These are oils that come from plants and animal sources. Our interest in oil is even deeper when we have to remove these stains from fabrics. Oil stains are classified as oxidizing or non-oxidizing oil. Non-oxidizing oils are mineral oil, car oil, motor oil and other petroleum derivatives. Oxidizing oils are those derived from animal or vegetable oil such as linseed, peanut, soy bean, olive, etc.

Petroleum products do not completely dry so that their oils do not oxidize and are usually easy to remove in the washing process. Oils that oxidize will change chemically from oxygen picked up from the air and become set from age and heat. These are difficult to remove, especially when they are hot oil like from a pizza or Italian sauce. The first thing in removing oil stains is recognizing them. They are frequently mistaken for coffee stains since they can be yellow or tan and have no feel. If garments with oil stains are just washed and bleached they will become set from heat and chemicals, sometimes making it impossible to remove. Oil stains can be differentiated from coffee by observing the shape of the stain. Oil stains will slowly absorb into a fabric and frequently form a cross or T. This occurs because the oil creeps along the weave of the fabric. If you hold the stained fabric up to the light and look through the front of the fabric the stain is usually translucent. Once we establish that a stain has oil this following method should be used.

PREPARATION

- (1) Glass**
- (2) Spoon**
- (3) Towel or cloth**
- (4) Petroleum Jelly or Vaseline**
- (5) Nonionic detergent such as Simple Green-This detergent has surfactants that work on grease. There are other similar products which can be found in the automotive section of large stores.**

PROCEDURE

- (1) Place the glass upside down on a flat surface. The upturned base of the glass provides a firm work area for the rubbing necessary to remove this type of stain.**
- (2) Apply a little petroleum jelly to stain.**
- (3) Carefully rub area with the round edge of the spoon to break up stain.**
- (4) Add the detergent such as Simple Green.**
- (5) Rub area with the edge of the spoon.**

(2)

(6) Dab up area with the towel to check progress of stain removal.

(7) When stain is removed wash garment.

Caution: Always test on an unexposed area of fabric for safety to colors.