

**HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS USED BY PROFESSIONAL DRYCLEANERS  
FOR STAIN REMOVAL (35)**

**There are many household products and products that are sold in supermarkets that are very similar to cleaning agents used by professional drycleaners. In many instances the only difference is the concentration of the product. Many professional drycleaners may even use some of the household products when they run out of their professional products. The following is a list of some of the more common products used by drycleaners.**

- (1) Water-is the universal solvent for removing wetside stains. Water dissolves sugar, salt and starch, which is the composition of most wetside stains. Every professional drycleaning procedure starts with the use of water when removing wetside stains. Seltzer or club soda does not have any better effect on staining than plain water.**
- (2) Vinegar-is a dilute acetic acid. Acetic acid is used by professional drycleaners for removing tannin stains. Tannin stains are stains originating from vegetable matter. These stains include coffee, tea, soft drinks, wine, liquor, ketchup and others. Drycleaners also use acetic acid to accelerate some chemicals and to neutralize other chemicals.**
- (3) Ammonia-is a common alkali used by drycleaners. It is used in the removal of protein or albumin stains which originate from a living body. These stains include blood, eggs, perspiration, urine and milk. Ammonia is also used by professional launderers to aid in removing ground in soil on collar areas of shirts. Ammonia is also used to accelerate many bleaches.**
- (4) Hydrogen Peroxide (3%)-This mild oxidizing agent is a common antiseptic for cuts and bruises. It is found on professional drycleaners spotting board. It is used to remove last traces of many stains and dye and is accelerated by the use of ammonia.**
- (5) Color Safe Bleach-usually contains sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate. This is used by drycleaners to remove stains and whiten fabrics by a soaking method. It is an overnight bleach and it must be carefully rinsed and neutralized with vinegar after use. Professional drycleaners may use the pure product of sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate or may opt to use the color safe bleach products sold in supermarkets.**
- (6) Q-tips-The use of q-tips is invaluable to professional drycleaners. The can dispense a chemical on a very local area without spreading the chemical.**

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**(7) Simple Green-**This product which is found in major supermarkets is used by many professional drycleaners for removal of oil and grease stains before wetcleaning. The product contains nonionic surfactants which are also found in many commercial cleaning products.

**(8) Nail Polish Remover-**Many nail polish removers contains acetone. Acetone is a dry solvent that is very effective in removing plastic based stains. It is however very dangerous to use on some fabrics. It will dissolve acetate and triacetate fabrics. Professional drycleaners use a solvent called amyl acetate which is used for removing plastic based stains but is also safe on all fabrics. They will however use acetone when trying to more difficult plastic stains such as Krazy Glue. If acetone is used it must always be carefully tested for safety.