

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE (48)

One of the most useful spotting agents around is hydrogen peroxide. Most consumers do not use it to its full potential. I told Doreen Eardley of St. Lucie West to use it to remove the last traces of coffee on her carpet. I also told Burt Minsky of St. Lucie West to use it for last traces of mustard stain on his denim slacks. They both had successful results. Hydrogen peroxide is simply water with an extra oxygen (H₂O₂). The extra oxygen is capable of combining with staining matter producing a chemical change. The fact that oxygen is added to the fabric makes hydrogen peroxide an oxidizing agent. Hydrogen peroxide can be obtained in various strengths. (1) 3% 10 volume (medicine) (2) 6% 20 volume (hair bleach).

Hydrogen peroxide can be used to remove many types of staining which is not possible with other bleaches. It is effective in removing last traces of tannin stains, protein, blood, hard drinks, dye and mustard stains. It is also effective on scorched stains. The advantages over chlorine based bleach is that it can be used on wool and silk. Remember to test dyes and fabrics before using since peroxide is a bleach and can produce discolorations.

USES

There are different ways of using peroxide and each way produces different effectiveness. For example, I can heat peroxide or accelerate it with ammonia and not obtain the stain removal as when I expose it to light and air. Trial by error will determine the success. (1) Heat-Hot water makes the bleaching more intense. Every 10 degrees rise in temperature can double the chemical action. (2) Alkali-Hydrogen peroxide is accelerated by alkali such as household ammonia. This must be used with caution on silk and wool.

.....(A) Peroxide is applied to stain

.....(B) Ammonia is then applied. Area is rinsed.

.....(C) White vinegar is then added.

.....(D) Area is then rinsed again or garment can be washed.

(3) Air and light-Peroxide is highly effective when applied and left exposed to air and household light for a period of time. Apply the peroxide and re-apply every half hour. Rinse after use. If you expose the garment to sunlight the bleaching becomes even more intense due to the ultra violet rays of sunlight. Overexposure of peroxide to sunlight can result in oxidation and yellowing.

BATH BLEACHING

.....(1) Add peroxide to a bucket of warm water (2 ounces per gallon of water).

.....(2) Add a mild detergent.

.....(3) Soak one hour.

.....(4) Rinse or wash normally