

## LAMPSHADE CLEANING (52)

It may be time to check your lampshades and determine if it can be refurbished. Lampshades should be dusted regularly with a dry cloth. If you want to undertake the task of cleaning the lampshade must be properly examined and checked thoroughly. In examining the shade you should observe the method of fastening used on the metal frame as well as the trimming and fringes. Put some water on the glued area and determine if the glue softens when wet. Also test any colored trimming as well as designs on the shades for color fastness. Use a white clean cloth or towel dampened with water and detergent. Note if any dye transfers to cloth when the color is dabbed.

### SPOTTING

There are several types of staining that you should be concerned with.

- (1) Insect staining-you may notice heavy black stains which may be caused by excretion from insects. These are difficult stains and need special attention.
- (2) Soiling-heavy soiling due to accumulation of dirt and dust must be attended to.

Remove the shade from the lamp and use a bath tub or a large pail as a work area. The aforementioned staining should be rubbed down with a solution of water, detergent and household ammonia. Use 10 parts water, 1 part detergent and 1 part ammonia. When rubbing the shade use one hand in back as a brace to support the shade and avoid pressure that can tear or damage the shade. Any rust type staining from the metal construction can be removed with a little lemon juice. Adding salt to the lemon juice will make it even more effective. Any residual yellow staining can be treated using hydrogen peroxide and ammonia. Apply the hydrogen peroxide (3%) and then apply ammonia.

### CLEANING

Fill up your bathtub or large pail with cool water. Add detergent in a ratio of  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce per gallon of water. Soak for 5-10 minutes using a rag to gently brush the shade. Be sure to use your other hand as a backing or support. Rinse in clear water. Then make up a solution of water and white vinegar. Use 1 ounce of vinegar per gallon of water. This is referred to as a sour and is used to prevent yellowing on the shade. Rinse again in clear water. After rinsing allow the shade to drip dry for 10 to 15 minutes. Hang near a fan or outside to dry.