

I am a member of the magic club in Port St. Lucie. Amateur and professional magicians meet once a month to discuss and educate in the craft of magic. I use the theme of magic when I do seminars for consumer and professional groups on stains and fabrics. The magician can make color change and objects disappear and re-appear as well as creating other illusions. There are many unexplained occurrences that happen with fabrics and staining that can be just as mystifying and baffling. The following is some occurrences that have baffled people from time to time.

- (1) Invisible staining-A garment is washed or drycleaned and a mysterious stain appears. The consumer is often baffled on the cause of the staining and frequently blames the drycleaner. This occurs because many stains are invisible when contacting a fabric but pick up oxygen causing the stain to oxidize. Age and heat accelerate the process of oxidation. The classic example is cutting an apple in half. After a period of time it will oxidize and turn brown.**
- (2) A color change occurring in a closet-Have you ever removed a garment from a fabric and noticed that the garment or lining has changed color? This strange and unusual occurrence is called fume fading. Fume fading is a color change or color loss caused by the action of air borne gases found in various degrees of concentration. Frequently higher concentrations of these gases exist in closets. Darker colors will turn pink or red but not necessarily evenly. Garments are usually affected in lengthwise streaks especially in the folds.**
- (3) Yellow streaks-A white garment while hanging in a closet is found to have mysterious yellow streaks yet nothing was touching the garment. This strange occurrence was caused by a condition referred to as sublimation of dye. Sublimation of dye is a term used to describe the evaporation of a solid into a gas without passing through the liquid phase. Gases in the air dissolve certain dyes on garments hanging in the closet. In the gaseous state the dye deposits on another garment in yellow streaks.**
- (4) Color change in drycleaning-A drycleaner sent a blue shirt that belonged to one of his customers. The customer insisted that the shirt was originally brown. Many garments are dyed with a mixture of several dyes to obtain a desired shade. Some of these dyes can dissolve in drycleaning causing a complete color change.**
- (5) Disappearing beads-A beaded garment is drycleaned and yet after drycleaning all the beads are gone with the stitching intact. This occurred because the manufacturer used a beading that is soluble and dissolves in the solvents used by drycleaners.**

