

## **MECHANICAL ACTION FOR EFFECTIVE STAIN REMOVAL (54)**

**When you apply a detergent or lubricant to a stain it is necessary to use mechanical action. Mechanical action provides the friction, pressure and rubbing that helps the lubricant break up and lift the staining substance from the fabric. When improperly applied mechanical action can damage or abrade the fabric. There are several safe ways to apply friction to a fabric without damaging it.**

### **TOOLS THAT PROVIDE MECHANICAL ACTION**

- (1) Old toothbrush or denture brush-The bristles can be hard, medium or soft depending on the durability of the fabric.**
- (2) Spoon-Use the round side of a spoon to gently rub the fabric. Professional drycleaners use a similar tool referred to as a spatula or bone to provide mechanical action.**
- (3) Towel-You can use a towel to provide friction or pressure to a fabric. Do not use a colored towel or paper napkins. Paper napkins will break up causing the paper to imbed itself into the fabric.**

**Remember always apply mechanical action when the fabric is lying on a flat surface.**

### **HOW TO APPLY MECHANICAL ACTION**

- (1) Brushing-When using a toothbrush allow the bristles to lay flat on the fabric. Brush in one direction only. On delicate fabrics you can angle the brush so only the outer edge of the bristles contact the fabric. Professional drycleaners use this technique on silks, rayons and other delicate fabrics.**
- (2) Tamping-Tamping is the action of tapping the fabric with an up and down motion. It can be done with a brush, spoon or towel. This pushes the lubricant into the fabric and aids in breaking up the stain. This is probably the safest form of mechanical action. Judy Mendelson of St. Lucie West has been using this method for years with great success.**
- (3) Spoon-It is useful for breaking up difficult stains such as paint, glue, nail polish and other similar stains. However on some delicate fabrics the spoon may cause yarn damage. Nap fabrics and soft fabrics such as wool, cashmere and acrylics can withstand the use of the spoon. Never use the point of the spoon handle. Always use the smooth edge of the spoon.**

### **HOW TO APPLY MECHANICAL ACTION TO FABRICS**

- (1) Silk-Use a tamping action for safety or light rubbing with the towel.**
- (2) Ribbed fabrics-Brush against the ribs.**
- (3) Corduroy-Brush with the ribs.**

- (4) Satin-Work on the reverse side of the fabric.**
- (5) Denims-Use a tamping action for safety or work on the opposite side of the fabric. Too much friction on the surface of the denims causes color loss referred to as dye crocking.**