

OLD OXIDIZED STAINS REQUIRE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE (63)

There are many old oxidized wetside stains that have not responded to your attempts at stain removal. As a final step in your attempts to remove these stains hydrogen peroxide should be tried. These stains include underarm perspiration, urine, wine, mustard, coffee, tea, blood and ketchup. Hydrogen peroxide, however is not effective on dryside stains such as grease, oil, paint wax, nail polish, etc. It is important to understand hydrogen peroxide in order to use it effectively. Hydrogen peroxide is a common antiseptic found in most medicine cabinets in a 3% 10 volume strength. Hair bleach is a more concentrated version of hydrogen peroxide and it is found in the concentration of 6% 20 volume. It is interesting to note that most professional drycleaners use hydrogen peroxide on their spotting board for use in removal of difficult and oxidized stains.

WHAT IS HYDROGEN PEROXIDE?

Hydrogen peroxide is chemically water with extra oxygen (H₂O₂). Although hydrogen peroxide is a bleaching agent it is the safest of all the bleaches available. It is even safer than the so-called color safe bleaches because it does not contain other chemicals such as alkali. The fact of it being safe does not mean that it can be used on colored fabrics with complete safety. The rule is that no bleach is 100% safe even though manufacturers label it as color safe. This means that it is necessary to test any bleach for color safety on an unexposed area of the garment before use. The hydrogen peroxide you have in your medicine cabinet may have gone bad or is inactive. Once the bottle of peroxide is opened it can decompose easily from exposure to light, heat and impurities. It is advisable to change the bottle if it has been around for a long period of time. Hydrogen peroxide can be made stronger from several factors.

- (1) Heat-When peroxide is heated it increases the chemical action. Every 18 degrees rise in temperature doubles the chemical action.**
- (2) Ammonia-Increases the speed of the chemical action.**
- (3) Light-Speeds up the chemical action.**

HOW TO APPLY

Before you attempt stain removal remember that hydrogen peroxide should be used as a last step in stain removal, never as the first step. There are several ways to use peroxide and the method you use depends on the fabric and the oxidation of the staining.

METHOD 1

This is the safest way of using peroxide. It is safe to all fabrics and most colors. Testing on colored fabrics is still necessary.

Materials needed-

-hydrogen peroxide**
-Q-tip**
-towel**

Procedure-

-Place garment on towel.**
-Wet area.**
-Apply peroxide with Q-tip.**
-Re-apply every 15 minutes until stain fades.**
-Rinse with water.**

METHOD 2

This method is similar to the first method but you are adding ammonia to accelerate the chemical action of the peroxide. This method may not be safe on many colored fabrics.

Materials needed-

-towel**
-hydrogen peroxide**
-Q-tip**
-Ammonia**
-White distilled vinegar**

Procedure-

-Place garment on towel.**
-Wet area.**
-Apply peroxide.**
-Apply ammonia.**
-Re-apply every 15 minutes until stain fades.**
-Rinse area.**
-Apply vinegar.**
-Rinse area.**