

## **PERSPIRATION STAINS**

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**Perspiration is one of the most troublesome stains to plague consumer. Perspiration is commonly found on the underarm, collar and waistline area. Perspiration is composed of fatty acids and chloride salts. Depending on the body chemistry of the individual the acids and chloride salts can not only discolor dyes but cause fabrics to deteriorate. When the fatty acids break down it causes an objectionable odor common in perspiration. Deodorants add to the complexity of the staining. The chemical composition of a perspiration stain after a period of time may even change. The acid nature of the staining can change to an alkaline condition. Oxidized perspiration stains produce yellow rings on the affected areas.**

### **DRYCLEANING**

**The drycleaning process only removes the fatty acid portion of perspiration unless the drycleaner pre-spots the staining. Therefore when garments are brought in to the drycleaner you must tell the cleaner that you want the affected areas pre-spotted for perspiration. Even if you do not see the staining the area should be pre-spotted to avoid oxidation and objectionable odor later.**

### **THE THEORY OF HOME STAIN REMOVAL**

**The modern day detergents that contain enzymes work well on perspiration stains. It is best to mix the detergent with warm water so the enzymes will be activated. When attempting to remove perspiration stains you use household ammonia because it combines with the fatty acids in perspiration, making the stain soluble. This is the reason why you may observe unusual foaming when attempting stain removal. The last traces of perspiration may require bleaching such as peroxide and household bleach.**

**CAUTION-WHEN USING AMMONIA OR ANY BLEACHING AGENT THE COLOR OF THE FABRIC SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PRE-TESTED BEFORE APPLICATION. ALWAYS TEST ON AN UNEXPOSED AREA.**

### **INGREDIENTS USED FOR STAIN REMOVAL**

- (1) Mix a little detergent such as Tide with warm water (100oF). 5 parts water to one part detergent.**
- (2) A clean towel.**
- (3) Household ammonia.**
- (4) White distilled vinegar.**
- (5) Hydrogen peroxide (3%)**
- (6) Plain water**
- (7) Clorox Stick**

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## PROCEDURE

- (1) Place stained area on towel.
- (2) Apply detergent mixture.
- (3) Rub and dab with towel.
- (4) Dab with a wet towel to rinse area.
- (5) Apply detergent mixture and then household ammonia.
- (6) Rub and dab with towel.
- (7) Dab with a wet towel to rinse area.
- (8) Apply vinegar.
- (9) Dab with a wet towel to rinse area.
- (10) Apply hydrogen peroxide.
- (11) Apply ammonia.
- (12) Let stand for 5 minutes.
- (13) Dab with a wet towel to rinse area.
- (14) Apply vinegar.
- (15) Dab with a wet towel to rinse area.
- (16) Use Clorox Bleach Stick.
- (17) Dab with a wet towel to rinse area.
- (18) Wash garment.

**CAUTION: AMMONIA, PEROXIDE AND CLOROX BLEACH STICK MUST BE TESTED FOR COLOR SAFETY TO FABRICS. THE COLORS ON WOOL AND SILK ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO AMMONIA. CLOROX BLEACH STICK SHOULD NEVER BE USED ON WOOL AND SILK.**

## ODOR

**If the garment has a perspiration odor one of the most effective agents is unscented Lysol spray. Do not saturate the stained areas but merely use a light spray around it.**