

Oil stains on the driveway

- (1) Many people attempting oil stain removal on driveways are not only often using the wrong agent but they are using agents that are environmentally hazardous. I was certified by EPA to teach environmental courses to professional drycleaners in New York State. New York State has strict environmental guidelines for drycleaners and requires every drycleaner who operates a drycleaning machine must be state certified. This certification is to prevent contamination of the air, ground and water. It is therefore important to use proper cleaning agents to dissolve the oil and not contaminate the ground. You must never use any drycleaning solvent or any petroleum based product to remove the oil. This includes gasoline, kerosene, paint thinner and acetone. Any drycleaning solvent used on the driveway pavement can seep into the ground causing contamination. This is critical because from the ground contamination can wash away into Florida waterways. Contamination in the ground or water is measured in parts per billion so it does not take a lot of solvent to pose a problem. When attempting removal of oil on pavement purchase a citrus based nonionic detergent. You will find these products in the automotive section of stores such as Wal-Mart, Loews or Home Depot. An example of this product would be Simple Green. There are several other products but make sure the product is bio-degradable. Bio-degradable means it decomposes by action of micro-organisms. Apply to pavement. Brush in and flush with a water hose or power washer. You can add some mild alkali which would boost the ability of the product to dissolve the oil. This can be household ammonia or baking soda. Baking soda is slightly alkaline and is also considered environmentally friendly. This may require several applications.

Water stains on coffee table

- (2) Water or alcohol on wood furniture can cause a light discoloration. A fast cure for this type of discoloration would be splitting a nut in half and rubbing the affected area. It is similar to using a furniture polish.

Mold or mildew on tile

- (3) The only cure for mildew on tile is to use products that contain sodium hypochlorite or household bleach. Regular household bleach would do the same job as any of the products sold to clean tile. When working on small areas of the tile it is useful to use the Clorox bleach stick. Never use ammonia with household bleach since it causes the bleach to break down and release chlorine gas.

