

PROFESSIONAL TRICKS FOR RESTORING COLOR LOSS ON FABRICS (81)

Professional drycleaners are often faced with the problem of restoring color loss on fabrics. This may occur from a customer's attempt at stain removal or color loss produced by the drycleaner. There are some methods used by professional drycleaners that may also be useful to the homemaker with a similar problem.

Silk-When silk fabrics are rubbed too hard the yarn may chafe or snap causing a change in light reflection producing a lighter area. Cleaners often attempt to darken and correct the area by using a little oil. You may even find them putting their fingers in their hair to obtain a little oil on their fingertips. They then rub the affected area.

Vegetable Dye- Sometimes vegetables, fruit and tannin substances can be used to color in lost dye on fabrics. For example coffee can be applied to color loss on a tan fabric with a q-tip. When dry it can match the tan color of the fabric. It should be noted that the coffee will set and darken with age and the heat of pressing. Other substances can be used including soy sauce, cherries, wine and tea.

Colored dye pencils-Dye pencils can be purchased from stationary and office supply stores. Specific colored pencils can also be obtained from any local art supply store. The pencil is very effective because it gives you a great variety of colors. The best way to use is to apply the color to a cloth and then gently rub on the affected area. You can also mix colors to obtain different shades. Colors can be made darker by adding black. To make orange, add some red to yellow. It must be remembered that the discoloration of the stained area must be taken into consideration. If the fabric is purple and the discoloration is red it is advisable to add a little blue to the red to bring it to a purple shade. Different color magic markers may be effective for restoring color loss.

Denim fabrics- We can use a ball point pen or carbon paper to cover small discolored areas. To create the white yarn effect, use a tapping motion of a white pencil. Blue jeans that have faded can be soaked in a solution of water with Mrs. Stewart's liquid bluing. Use more of the liquid bluing than what is recommended.