

REDUCING BLEACHES FOR EXPERT STAIN REMOVAL (89)

In my previous articles I discussed oxidizing bleaches which add oxygen to a stain to make it invisible. Reducing bleaches do the opposite which means it removes oxygen from a stain or fabric to make a stain invisible. Reducing bleaches can be found in most supermarkets. In the pool cleaning section of Publix there are two products available which contain reducing bleaches. They are “Ironout” and “Yellowout”. They contain mixtures of two reducing bleaches which are sodium hydrosulphite and sodium bisulphate. Reducing bleaches can be a great aid to the homemaker who wants to remove many of the impossible stains.

USES

Reducing bleaches are used primarily for dye and last traces of stains containing dye. This means that it can be used to remove the last traces of ink, lipstick, fruit, hair dye, dye transfer and liquor. It can also be used to whiten such fabrics as silk, wools and similar fabrics. Another important use of it is as an antichlor for chlorine bleach or household bleach. This means that if chlorine bleach caused a fabric to yellow the use of a reducing bleach such as we mentioned may correct the problem.

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT BLEACH

-Test all bleaches on an unexposed area of garment before use.**
-If a color change occurs while using a reducing bleach, rinse and then apply an oxidizing bleach. This means if the reducing bleaches we are discussing yellows the garment, rinse and use an oxidizing bleach such as hydrogen peroxide and ammonia or a color safe bleach.**
-If an oxidizing bleach such as Clorox or a similar household bleach yellows a fabric, rinse and use a reducing bleach such as we discussed.**
-Avoid having bleach contact metal. This means that you should not bleach any garment that has a metal trimming and you should even avoid bleaching in a washing machine.**
-Heat accelerates bleach. Every 18 degrees rise in temperature doubles the strength of the bleaching agent.**

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR STAIN REMOVAL

- (1) Cup**
- (2) Q-tip**
- (3) Dissolve powdered reducing bleach in a cup and add enough warm water until it dissolves.**

PROCEDURE

Apply bleach with Q-tip

Rinse thoroughly with clear water.

BATH BLEACH

- (1) Add 1-2 ounces of reducing bleach per gallon of warm water in a plastic pail.**
- (2) Add a mild detergent such as Tide. Do not add any detergents which contain bleaches or alkali.**
- (3) Soak no more than 15 minutes.**
- (4) Rinse and rewash.**