

## REMOVING DIFFICULT STAINS (90)

There are many stains that continue to plaque the homemaker due to incorrect attempts at stain removal. Many stains may become impossible to remove because improper chemicals set and oxidize the stains.

### MUSTARD

This popular condiment is obtained by crushing the seeds of the mustard plant. Mustard is blended with tumeric to add the yellow color and it is usually the color that is difficult to remove. When mustard comes in contact with a fabric you should never rub the mustard with water since this pushes the stain deeper into the fabric. You should never use detergents with alkali or ammonia since this will also set and oxidize the stain. Do not wash the garment without first removing the stain since the heat of the dryer also sets the stain. When mustard dries it should be first scraped off by using the rounded end of a spoon before attempting stain removal.

### CHOCOLATE

Cocoa butter, coloring matter and flavoring are the principal ingredients of chocolate. Do not use detergents with alkali or alcohol as this will set the stain. Before attempting stain removal procedures, mix a mild enzyme based detergent such as Tide with warm water. Saturate the stain and allow to sit for 20 minutes.

### GRASS

It is the pigment chlorophyll that is responsible for the green color. There is no detergent found to be totally effective in removing grass. You should not use alkali or alkaline based detergents. Work the stain initially with alcohol. This can be rubbing alcohol or mouthwash. Remember to test color.

### SCORCH

A light burn occurring on the surface of the fabric usually from a hot iron. Apply a 3% solution of hydrogen peroxide and expose it to natural or artificial light. Reapply every 10 minutes. Colored fabrics must always be tested.

## STAIN REMOVAL PREPARATION

- (1) Spoon
- (2) Towel
- (3) Grease cutting detergent – 409, Simple Green and similar detergents have grease cutting characteristics and work best on the aforementioned stains. Some of these products are found in the automotive section of supermarkets.
- (4) Household Ammonia – a mild alkali that requires testing on colored fabrics.
- (5) White distilled vinegar

**(6) Hydrogen peroxide – 3% strength can be purchased as an antiseptic. It is accelerated by ammonia and since it is considered a mild bleach it should be tested on fabrics.**

### **PROCEDURE**

- ....Turn a glass upside down to use as a base**
- ....Place towel over glass**
- ....Place stained area over glass**
- ....Wet area**
- ....Apply diluted detergent**
- ....Rub with the edge of a spoon**
- ....Rinse with water**
- ....Apply detergent again with a few drops of vinegar**
- ....Rub stain**
- ....Rinse with water**
- ....Apply hydrogen peroxide**
- ....Apply ammonia**
- ....Allow to stand a few minutes**
- ....Rinse with water**
- ....Apply vinegar**
- ....Wash garment**