

## REMOVING INVISIBLE STAINS (92)

We have all encountered the strange occurrence after we wash, dryclean or store garments in a closet. This occurs because many stains when contacting a garment are invisible but oxidize and show up after a period of time or when the garment is subjected to heat. The example to explain this is the apple that is cut in half. After a period of time you will notice that the apple will oxidize and turn brown. When I was a child we used to make invisible ink by writing with lemon juice. Put heat to the paper and the writing will then appear. Typical stains that show up after a period of time are referred to as tannin. Tannin is any wet staining that is derived from plant or vegetable matter. This includes liquor, coffee, tea, soft drinks, many medicines, etc. Have many more of these stains can you name? It is very important that tannin stains be handled properly to avoid setting or oxidizing the stain making it impossible to remove. Do not use plain soap and water on tannin stains. The alkali present in the soap will set the stain. It is advisable when in a restaurant some staining such as coffee or some other tannin beverage is spilled on the fabric, we use plain water to blot the stain up quickly. You should also attempt to blot up any staining even if you do not visibly see the stain. Do not rub the stain and do not use paper napkins which can leave paper residue on the fabric. Tannin stains turn tan to brown and can be recognized by a dark outer ring.

Test fabrics and color before attempting stain removal. It is impossible to know beforehand the effect that spot removal agents will have on various dyes and fabrics. It is therefore important to pre-test. Locate an unexposed area such as a hem or inside flap. Apply the spotting aid to a white towel or other absorbent material and dab the fabric. Note if the color transfers to the towel. Wait until the fabric becomes dry and observe if there is any change in the color or the texture of the fabric. If this should occur do not use the agent. Instead take the garment to your professional drycleaner.

### Tannin Stain Removal- Preparation-

...A towel or cloth

...Clear cool water

...White distilled vinegar

...Eyedropper or q-tip

...Clear ammonia (Use to accelerate hydrogen peroxide)

...Hydrogen peroxide (3% 10 volume) This is a mild bleach that is used for cuts and bruises and must carefully be tested before use.

,,,Solution of ¼ of a tablespoon of a mild laundry detergent and 2 ounces of white distilled vinegar to 2 ounces of cool water.

(2)

**Procedure-**

**Place absorbent towel under stain. Dab stain with towel dampened with water. Dampen towel with detergent and vinegar solution and dab stain. Rinse area by dabbing stain with towel that is damp with cool water. Apply a few drops of hydrogen peroxide to stain. Immediately apply a few drops of clear ammonia. Let stain sit for a few minutes. Rinse area by dabbing stain with a towel that is damp with clear water. Apply a few drops of white distilled vinegar. Rinse area by dabbing stain with a towel that is damp with clear water. To remove rings wipe with a damp towel from center of ring outward so wet area blends with dry area.**