

We could pick up any help magazine and be confronted with information concerning the health risks and nutritional value of fat and oil. The terms we have become familiar with are polyunsaturated and saturated oils. These are oils that come from plants and animal sources. Our interest in oil is even deeper since we are required to remove these stains from fabrics. In drycleaning language oil stains are classified as oxidizing or non-oxidizing oils. Non-oxidizing oils are mineral oil, car oil, motor oil and other petroleum derivatives. Oxidizing oils are those derived from animal or vegetable oil such as linseed, peanut, soy bean, olive, etc. Petroleum products do not completely dry so their oils do not oxidize but remain soluble and are usually easier to remove. Oils that oxidize change chemically from oxygen picked up from the air and becomes set from age and heat. The first thing in removing oil stains is recognizing them. They are frequently mistaken for tannin stains since they can be yellow or tan and have no feel. Oil stains, however will slowly absorb into a fabric and frequently form a cross or T. This occurs because the oil creeps along the weave of the fabric.

STAIN REMOVAL PROCEDURES

When applying agents to oil and grease stains they should be agitated using the edge of a spoon or an old denture brush. Remember to test all agents and don't rub too hard.

STAIN REMOVAL AGENTS

Nonionic detergents-This is a group of detergents found in the automotive section of Wal-Mart or other similar stores. "Simple Green" is one of the products to use. It differs from your regular laundry detergent. Many of these products are derived from the oils of citrus fruits and the nonionic surfactants breaks down oil and grease extremely well. Garments should be washed after application.

Vaseline-Petroleum Jelly is a lubricant that can be used to remove grease and oil. It has lubricating properties without the harshness that some detergents have.

Household Ammonia-Ammonia is made up of one part nitrogen and three parts hydrogen. Use ammonia with caution since the fumes can be irritating to your lungs. Ammonia is an alkali that has excellent grease cutting properties. Ammonia can bleed colors on fabrics especially wool and silk. It must always be tested before use. A little ammonia mixed with water and detergent is one of the most effective ways used to pre-spot grimy collars on shirts before washing. Never use ammonia with household bleach since deadly fumes can evolve. If ammonia is used on a fabric and a color change occurs quickly rinse area and apply a little white distilled vinegar.

Ivory dishwashing detergent-Use the kind for washing dishes by hand, not the powdered kind used for the dishwasher. These agents are made to cut grease and will work on fabrics with greasy stains.

Cheez Whiz and similar products-These products contain an enzyme called lipase which helps to break down grease. Apply cheez whiz to stained area and work the agents in before washing garment.