

SOAKING FOR CLEANER CLOTHES (99)

Professional drycleaners use various soaking methods to provide consumers with spotless garments. Wedding gown restoration is accomplished by long term soaking. Proper soaking gently softens the fabric, opens the weave and allows release of difficult soil and staining. Overnight soaking using the proper bleaching agents releases oxygen slowly which remove difficult staining and makes white fabrics whiter. In order to do proper soaking you should know the type of staining you are removing. By using the proper ingredients you can have successful results. The ingredients in today's detergents and bleaches permit more successful soaking results than ever before.

- (1) Type of staining-Soil and protein stains such as blood, perspiration, eggs, milk and food oils.**

Products-Many detergents such as Tide contain anionic surfactants which aid in soil removal. These detergents also contain enzymes which breaks down insoluble protein matter and food oil into soluble substances.

Procedure-Fill washing machine with warm water. Add detergents based on manufacturers instructions. Soak for 45 minutes and than wash in a routine manner.

- (2) Type of staining-Oil, grease, lipstick, ink and make-up.**

Products-Simple Green and similar products which have grease cutting characteristics. These products contain nonionic surfactants which break down greasy and oily substances.

Procedure-Fill washing machine with warm water. Add detergents based on manufacturers instructions. If you are soaking garments in a plastic pail add one ounce of detergent per gallon of water. Soak for 1 hour and then wash in a routine manner.

- (3) Type of staining-Dye, last traces of any staining, to make fabrics whiter.**

Products-Many products such as Oxyclean and Clorox II contain a mild oxidizing agent such as sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate. These bleaches release oxygen slowly and is therefore useful as an overnight bleach. It is more effective to soak garments using this bleach in a plastic pail since the metal in a washing machine can counteract the bleaching action.

Procedure-Fill a small plastic pail with warm water. Add 2 ounces of product

per gallon of water. Add a little detergent to the solution. After adding garments to the pail cover the garments with a towel to prevent the fabric from being exposed to the air. Soak overnight. Re-wash the garments in the washing machine and add vinegar to the rinse water. Add approximately 1 ounce of vinegar per gallon of water.