

## **SPOT BLEACHING WITH COLOR SAFE BLEACH (100)**

**There are many products in the supermarket labeled as color safe bleach. These products usually contain a powdered oxidizing bleach such as sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate. The first thing that we should establish is that no such thing as a color safe bleach. These bleaches may be safer than household bleach such as sodium hypochlorite but they are not safe to all colors on fabrics. The instructions on the product label inform you to test colors. These bleaches remove stains by adding oxygen to the stain. The stain is changed chemically either to a soluble substance or to an invisible substance. In some cases the stain is still there but you do not see it. Sodium perborate and sodium percarbonate are alkaline in nature and are accelerated by heat and additional alkaline. We can use these bleaches for effective spot bleaching.**

### **STAIN REMOVAL**

**Spot bleaching requires two important factors.**

- (1) You must work on the last traces of the stain. This means that stain removal will not work if the bulk of the staining is not there. You must use your regular methods to get down to the very last trace.**
- (2) The bleaching process will not work on dry side stains or soil. Dry side stains are those stains that have a plastic, grease or oily base. This includes paint, oil, grease, nail polish, glue, shoe polish and rubber cement. It will however work on the last traces of lipstick if you remove the wax portion of the stain and are left with a residue of dye. It will work on the last traces of tannin or vegetable based stains such as coffee, tea, liquor, medicines, dye, wine, ketchup and mustard. It will also work on albuminous stains such as blood, milk, eggs, perspiration and urine.**

### **FABRIC TESTING**

**Before attempting to spot bleach the fabric should be tested on an unexposed area for safety. Even white fabrics should be tested since you do not want to be left with a big white area that may be whiter than the original fabric. Wool, silk, red and vivid colors especially need careful testing. These fabrics and colors are often sensitive to color safe bleach.**

### **PREPARATION**

- (1) Add a little water to some powdered safe bleach so that a thick solution is obtained.**
- (2) A glass of cool water.**
- (3) A glass of hot water.**

(2)

- (4) Q-tips.
- (5) White distilled vinegar.
- (6) Household ammonia.

### **PROCEDURE**

**Proceed with the stain removal process until stain is removed.**

- (1) Lay fabric on a white dry towel.
- (2) Wet stain.
- (3) Add bleach solution with a q-tip to stain. Add enough to cover stain.
- (4) Accelerate the chemical action by dipping q-tip in hot water and then touch stained area.
- (5) Put q-tip in ammonia and again touch stained area.
- (6) Again use q-tip with hot water to accelerate chemical action.
- (7) Rinse area with cool water.
- (8) Add vinegar to neutralize area.
- (9) Rinse with water or wash garment.

**Use different q-tips for each part of the spotting operation. Do not mix different chemicals on the same q-tip.**