

TIME ACTIVATION FOR BETTER STAIN REMOVAL (108)

There are times when attempting to remove a stain that simply applying a chemical to a stain is not effective. The chemical needs time to work effectively. Some weaker chemicals with the proper amount of time will work more effectively than the same chemical in a more concentrated form.

Hydrogen peroxide-This is a mild oxidizing bleach that can be purchased in any pharmacy. It is used as an antiseptic and comes in a 3% concentration. It can be activated by heat and ammonia but is more effective when it is not. It can be applied to a stain with a q-tip and simply dabbed on. Allow it to be exposed to air and ordinary light for ten minutes and keep re-applying it. It is very effective on the last traces of many stains including dye, coffee, tea, wine, liquor, soft drinks and perspiration. Even though it is relatively safe it should be pre-tested for color safety on fabrics.

Color safe bleach-The ingredients found in color safe bleach are either sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate. They are very effective for whitening fabrics or removing staining. It works very effectively as an overnight bleach. Put warm water in a small plastic pail and add the product in the ratio of 2 ounces per gallon of water. Soak garment overnight and then re-wash. It is also necessary to put vinegar in the rinse water to neutralize the alkalinity of the color safe bleach. Use approximately 3 cups of vinegar in the rinse water.

Enzymes-Most mild detergents such as Tide contain enzymes. Enzymes are catalysts that convert insoluble stains to soluble stains. Enzymes are used to remove stains such as food oil and protein stains such as milk, eggs, blood and perspiration. Very hot water used in washing destroys the enzymes making it ineffective. To use enzymes as a stain remover apply the detergent to a warm wet rag and then apply it to the stained area for 20 minutes. Then wash the garment in a routine manner. You can also let garments pre-soak in the washing machine with warm water. This will help remove stains prior to the routine washing.

Nail polish remover-contains a solvent such as acetone. It can be used to remove such stains as nail polish, paint and many glues. In order to soften the stain prior to removing the stain apply the nail polish remover to the stain and allow time for it to soften the stain. Then apply some Vaseline to the stain and use the round edge of a spoon to gently remove the stain from the fabric.

Caution-Acetone is a solvent that can dissolve fabrics such as acetate, triacetate and also removes some surface prints and dyes. Therefore, it always must be pre-tested on an unexposed area of the garment for safety before using.