

WINE STAINS (119)

At a Passover Seder in Temple Beth El Israel in Port St. Lucie Carol Wheeler accidentally spilled a whole glass of red wine on her beautiful new print cotton suit. She was smart enough to avoid a natural instinct to put water on the stain and rub the stain which could result in dye bleeding. Wine stains contain alcohol which tends to loosen and weaken dyes on fabrics. Carol notified me and we set up a plan of action for correction of the problem.

Step (1) I told Carol one of the best courses of action is to soak the suit in a mild oxidizing agent such as sodium perborate or sodium percarbonate. These are found in products such as Clorox II and other products which state that they contain a color safe bleach. I told Carol that there is no such thing as a color safe bleach and it should be tested on an unexposed seam before use. So called color safe bleaches can cause the dye on some fabrics to bleed or discolor. For testing purposes she could use hydrogen peroxide and ammonia which is chemically similar to color safe bleach. Test on an unexposed area of the garment by applying hydrogen peroxide (3%) and then household ammonia. Wait 3 minutes and then rinse area. The test she did was successful and she was able to proceed to the next step.

Step (2) – Procedure

Fill up a plastic pail with warm water (100 degrees F.) Add 2 ounces per gallon of any color safe bleach to the water. Add 1 ounce per gallon of water of a mild detergent such as Tide. Stir mixture and place garment in bucket. Put the towel over the garment to keep it wet. This prevents the garment from rising up causing areas to become exposed to the air. Soak 2-3 hours and rinse garment in the washing machine on a gentle cycle. It is important to sour the garment. This means that vinegar should be added to the rinse water (2 ounces per gallon of water). The color safe bleach is alkaline in nature and will produce yellowing if not neutralized with vinegar.

Carol reported to me that the stains were successfully removed. Wine stains can also be removed locally by the following procedure.

- (1) Place absorbent towel on the stain.**
- (2) Dab and rub stain with towel dampened with water.**
- (3) Dampen towel with detergent and water and rub stain.**
- (4) Rinse area by dabbing stain with towel that is damp with clear water.**
- (5) Re-apply detergent mixed with water plus a little distilled vinegar.**
- (6) Rub stain and then rinse area with a towel that is damp with water.**
- (7) Apply a few drops of hydrogen peroxide (3%) to stain.**
- (8) Apply a few drops of clear ammonia.**
- (9) Let stain sit for 3 minutes.**
- (10) Rinse area again using a damp towel.**

- (11) Apply a few drops of white distilled vinegar.**
- (12) Rinse area again with a damp towel.**