

PARACHUTE

Stain Guide

GROUND RULES

Take care of any mess as soon as possible. Dab with white paper towels or a clean white cloth, blotting from the edges of the spill toward the center. To avoid a water ring, use water sparingly when cleaning upholstery fabrics.

Laundering Information

“Dry clean only” means the washer may ruin the fabric or trim.

If laundering the stained item with other pieces, use a pre-treatment. If using bleach, see if the other items in the load have colorfast fabrics. If you’re not sure, wash the stained item separately.

If a detergent solution is recommended, mix 1 tablespoon of a mild white or clear dishwashing liquid in 1 cup of warm water. Do not use bleach.

Don’t toss an item in the dryer until a stain is gone, as heat may lock it in.

CLEANING INGREDIENTS TO KEEP ON HAND

Baking Soda

Hydrogen Peroxide or Rubbing Alcohol

White Vinegar

Color Safe Bleach

Corn Starch

Hairspray

Hand Sanitizer

Acetone-based nail polish remover

Mild white or clear dishwashing liquid
(such as Dawn)

OxiClean MaxForce Spray: enzymatic
laundry pretreat

Picrin: dry cleaning solvent

Stain Guide

COFFEE, TEA + WINE STAINS

These beverages get their stain powder from vegetable dyes. A single glass of red wine can contain the equivalent of 5 ounces of dye – making these stains particularly challenging.

Washable Fabrics

Work from the back of the fabric, flushing it with cold water, then apply an enzymatic laundry pretreat. Rub a little laundry detergent into the stain and launder using the warmest recommended water setting. Repeat until the stain clears.

Upholstery

Blot up as much of the stain as possible, then splash with carbonated water. Blot and repeat. If there is no improvement, dampen the stain with water, apply detergent solution with a clean sponge, and blot. Repeat until the stain has cleared. Dab again with water to remove detergent.

Leather

Blot with a damp cloth as soon as possible.

Natural Stone

Create a paste of baking soda and hydrogen peroxide. Cover the spot and let it sit for several hours.

Animal Fibers (wool, alpaca, etc)

Immediately blot up any extra liquid with a white paper towel or cloth. Pour a small amount of cold water onto the stain to dilute. Continue to blot until the stain is gone.

Throws: Seek professional dry cleaning services.

Rugs: Avoid any alkaline based cleansers like bleach or ammonia. When using any cleaning product, test a small area on a less visible part of the rug to avoid color reactions. Do not use hydrogen peroxide, as this could also affect coloration.

Stain Guide

Difficult Stains

Coffee and Tea: If the stain persists, use a small amount of white vinegar to dilute (about 1 tablespoon per cup of water) and continue blotting. Allow to dry completely, then repeat if necessary.

Red Wine: If the stain persists, make a paste by mixing 3 to 1 parts water to baking soda and apply it to the stained area. Once the paste has dried, vacuum or brush away. Repeat the paste treatment as needed.

MUSTARD + TURMERIC-BASED STAINS

Turmeric, the spice in mustard and curries contains curcumin, which gives the seasoning its bright color. Since curcumin is not water-soluble, it can be especially difficult to remove.

Washable Fabrics

Soak in diluted color-safe bleach for at least an hour, then launder. Repeat as needed.

Upholstery and Carpet

Remove the spill as soon as possible. Mix up a detergent solution (1 teaspoon of a mild dishwashing liquid to 1 cup of warm water) and work into the fabric and rinse well. Dry the item in the sun, as curcumin is very responsive to sunlight.

Leather

Mix a solution of mild soap (such as Ivory) in lukewarm water, swishing to create suds. Apply suds to a sponge and wipe the area. Wipe again with a clean, damp cloth. Dry with a soft cloth, then apply leather conditioner.

Stain Guide

Animal Fibers (wool, alpaca, etc)

Remove as much of the spill as possible, and blot out any excess liquid with a paper towel or cloth.

Throws: Dilute the stain by gently rinsing with a small amount of cold water, and seek professional dry cleaning services.

Rugs: Mix 8 parts water with 1 part white vinegar and a small amount of mild dish soap. Dip a sponge or cloth into the mixture until damp. Blot on the stain and let it sit for 10 minutes. Repeat this until the stain is gone.

Avoid any alkaline based cleansers like bleach or ammonia. When using any cleaning product, test a small area on a less visible part of the rug to avoid color reactions. Do not use hydrogen peroxide, as this could also affect coloration. For wool rugs, dilute any special detergents before using to remove a stain.

OIL, GREASE + SALAD DRESSING STAINS

Oil-based stains are always a challenge, as a simple rinse will not work. Avoid heat (such as hot water or placing the item in the dryer), since this can lock in the stain. In addition to oil-based food, these methods also work on stains from lotion, body butter and other oil-based skincare products.

Washable Fabrics

Blot the stain, then use an enzymatic laundry pretreat as directed on the label. Rub in a dab of laundry detergent with your fingertip, then launder in cold water. Repeat steps as necessary before drying the fabric.

Upholstery

Follow the instructions on a stain-removing or dry-cleaning solvent, such as Picrin. If the stain persists, ask your dry cleaner for advice.

Stain Guide

Leather

Leather usually absorbs oil-based stains. Blot with a clean, dry cloth, then cover the area with a layer of cornstarch. Let sit overnight, then wipe it away with a fresh cloth. Repeat as necessary. If the stain persists, talk to your dry cleaner for advice – as some commercial leather cleaners may remove some of the color along with the stain.

Natural Stone Countertops

For stones like granite and marble, mix baking soda and 1 to 2 tablespoons of acetone-based nail polish remover in a small bowl. Once it's the consistency of pancake batter, cover the spot with the mixture, and let it sit overnight. The acetone helps break down the oil and the baking soda absorbs it. Repeat as necessary.

Animal Fibers (wool, alpaca, etc)

Remove as much of the spill as possible, and blot out any excess liquid with a paper towel or cloth.

Throws: You can gently rinse with a small amount of cold water to dilute the stain and then seek professional dry cleaning services.

Rugs: Mix 8 parts water with 1 part white vinegar and a small amount of mild dish soap. Dip a sponge or cloth into the mixture until damp. Blot on the stain and let it sit for 10 minutes. Repeat this until the stain is gone.

Avoid any alkaline based cleansers like bleach or ammonia. When using any cleaning product, test a small area on a less visible part of the rug to avoid color reactions. Do not use hydrogen peroxide, as this could also affect coloration. For wool rugs, dilute any special detergents before using to remove a stain.

Stain Guide

BLOOD STAINS

Because blood is a protein-based stain, adding heat can make it permanent. Act quickly and use cold water. Avoid any heat (hot water or the dryer) until it's removed.

Washable Fabrics:

Flush with cold water, then spray with enzymatic laundry pretreat. Let sit, then massage a little laundry detergent into the area. Launder in cold water.

Upholstery

Blot to remove excess blood. Use a minimum amount of water on the fabric, wait 1 minute, then blot with a paper towel. Repeat water/blot procedure until no stain shows on the towel. Then blot dry.

Leather

Mix a solution of mild soap (such as Ivory) in cool water, swishing to create suds. Apply only the suds to a clean sponge and rub gently, making sure not to spread the stain. Wipe the area dry with a clean, soft cloth.

Animal Fibers (wool, alpaca, etc)

Remove as much of the spill as possible, and blot out any excess liquid with a paper towel or cloth.

Throws: Gently rinse with a small amount of cold water to dilute the stain, then seek professional dry cleaning services.

Rugs: Immediately blot up any excess blood with a clean, damp sponge. Gently dab the area using undiluted white vinegar, followed by cold water. Repeat as necessary for the stain to lift.

Stain Guide

MAKEUP STAINS

The pigment in makeup's minerals and dyes can make it a unique challenge to remove. Its skin-moisturizing emollients are often oil-based, so special care should be taken to avoid sinking it further into the fabric.

Washable Fabrics

Blot with acetone-based nail polish remover. Then try a store-bought cleaning solvent, such as Alba or Goo Gone.

Upholstery and Carpet

Blot to remove any excess. Dab the area with a small amount of rubbing alcohol or dry-cleaning solvent (such as Picrin) and blot dry right away. Be careful not to wet the upholstery fabric, as this may result in a water mark. When addressing a potential stain on carpet, don't soak the area with alcohol – this can damage the backing.

Leather

Leather usually absorbs oil-based stains. Blot with a clean, dry cloth, then cover the area with a layer of cornstarch. Let sit overnight, then wipe it away with a fresh cloth. Repeat as necessary. If the stain persists, talk to your dry cleaner for advice – as some commercial leather cleaners may remove some of the color along with the stain.

Animal Fibers (wool, alpaca, etc)

Remove as much of the spill as possible, and blot out any excess liquid with a paper towel or cloth. Gently rinse with a small amount of cold water to dilute the stain, then seek professional dry cleaning services.

For makeup, nail polish or shoe polish stains, you can also soak a cotton ball with rubbing alcohol. Carefully apply, then blot dry in between. Repeat until you see the stain lift.

Stain Guide

INK STAINS

Applying rubbing alcohol, hairspray, or hand sanitizer can dilute ink stains by breaking up the ink and making them easier to remove. Allow these solvents to sit and fully saturate before you try to remove the stain.

Washable Fabrics

After blotting any excess liquid, soak a cotton ball or clean white rag with rubbing alcohol or spraying the area with hairspray and delicately blotting dry. Repeat until the stain begins to lift.

Upholstery and Carpet

For upholstered furniture, mix 1 tablespoon of liquid dishwashing detergent and 1 tablespoon of white vinegar with 2 cups of warm water. Dab with the detergent solution on a cloth, blotting it with a separate dry cloth until the stain is gone. Flush with clear water.

For carpets, moisten the ink stain with either rubbing alcohol, non-oily hairspray, or hand sanitizer. Lightly blot the stain until the ink starts to transfer onto your blotting towel. Once the stain is gone, dab the area with a clean towel dipped in lukewarm water.

Leather

If the stain is fresh, use warm water and soap. Use a damp cloth to prevent the leather from getting wet and gently rub over the ink stain. Do not scrub, as this can cause the stain to deepen into the material. If the stain is already deep, blot with cotton swabs dipped in rubbing alcohol. Take care not to oversaturate the leather. Dry right away with a blow dryer, as prolonged exposure to alcohol can affect the leather.

Animal Fibers (wool, alpaca, etc)

Soak a cotton ball with rubbing alcohol. Carefully apply, then blot dry in between. Repeat until you see the stain lift. If stain remains, contact your dry cleaner for additional advice.