



## Spot-Cleaning Tips and Remedies

The best and most convenient way to remove spots and spills is to have your carpet serviced by an Aladdin Professional. However, the following tips and home remedies should help remove most spots and odors.

### Important Notes:

1. Spills and stains should be treated IMMEDIATELY. The longer a spot remains, the more difficult it will be to remove.
2. Before using any solutions or products on your carpet,
  - a. Test a small patch of carpet for colorfastness. Do this by applying the solution to a clean white cloth and rubbing it on a hidden area of carpet. If discoloration occurs, **DO NOT USE THIS SOLUTION ON YOUR CARPET.**
  - b. Remove any solid built-up materials with a rounded tablespoon, spatula, or the edge of a dull knife
  - c. Absorb as much liquid as possible, using white paper or cloth towels, replacing them as they become saturated
3. Using the wrong solution may set a spot and make it permanent
4. **DO NOT OVERWET.** Use small amounts of the cleaning agents and blot frequently.
5. Do not rub or brush. Use blotting action to prevent fuzzing the carpet surface. Work from the outer edge of the spot towards the center to prevent rings.
6. **BE PATIENT.** Some stains respond slowly. All spots and stains cannot be removed from every fabric due to differences in fibers, dyes, constructions, finishes, composition of the stain, length of time the stain has remained on the article, etc. **SOME STAINS REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT.**
7. If a spot still remains after using any of the remedies below, please call Aladdin right away.

For cleaning by a certified professional, call Aladdin at **210-736-1821**.

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## Spot-Cleaning Tips and Remedies

### Spotting Solutions

#### **AMMONIA SOLUTION**

1 Tbsp. clear household Ammonia  
1/2 cup water

Directions:  
Mix ingredients together.

#### **BLEACH**

Only use hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate, present in Snowy or Clorox II. Do NOT use chlorine bleach.

#### **DETERGENT SOLUTION**

1 tsp. colorless, mild detergent (substitution: dishwashing liquid w/o bleach)  
1 cup lukewarm water

Directions:  
Mix ingredients together

#### **DRY CLEANING SOLVENT**

Volatile dry spotter or commercial spotter

Note: Commercial spotter such as Carbona, Energine, K2R. Use in small amounts - can be harmful to sizing, backings or stuffing materials. Do NOT use gasoline, lighter fluid or carbon tetrachloride.

#### **ENZYME DETERGENT**

Directions:  
Following the directions on the label, mix a solution of enzyme detergent. Do NOT soak or overwet the stain. Allow the solution to remain on the stain for the recommended length of time before removing. (Professional cleaners may prefer to use digesters separate from detergents.)

#### **VINEGAR SOLUTION**

1/3 cup white household vinegar  
2/3 cup water

Directions:  
Mix ingredients together

#### **POG (Paint, oil and grease remover)**

Available in hardware stores

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### Spot-fighting Formulas for Common Household Spots

Use the spotting solutions above to complete the following steps.

IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE SERIES OF STEPS. Complete the steps until the stain is removed. When the spot has come out of the carpet, gently rinse the area with water and absorb remaining moisture with absorbent towels.

#### **Beer**

Stain: Colorless to light yellow, slightly stiff

Contains: Hops, malts, alcohol, albumine, tannin

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot frequently.
3. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

#### **Blood**

Stain: Reddish when fresh, dries to dark brown

Contains: Albumin, fat, fibrin, iron

Directions:

1. Apply cool detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply cool ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
5. If stain remains, apply rust remover or oxalic acid solution.
6. Bleaching with 3-5% hydrogen peroxide may be necessary.

#### **Butter**

Stain: Greasy, yellowish-red, sometimes built up

Contains: Vegetable dye, corn oil, milk, salt, preservatives, vegetable fats

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
2. Apply detergent solution, blot until dry.
3. Apply vinegar solution, dry.
4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

#### **Candle Wax**

Stain: Stiff and built-up

Contains: Petroleum, animal fats and oils, vegetable fats and oils, basic dyes

Directions:

1. Scrape off as much as possible with spatula or dull knife.
2. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
3. Apply POG, blot.
4. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.

#### **Chewing Gum**

Stain: Greyish or pink, rubbery, sticky, built-up

Contains: Chicle flavoring, sugar

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### Directions:

1. Harden gum with an ice cube until it is brittle enough to scrape off with dull knife or spatula.
2. Apply dry cleaning solvent to remove remaining traces OR use a commercial chewing gum remover.

### Chocolate

Stain: Brown with irregular edge, absorbed or built-up

Contains: Oil, grease, cocoa, butter, coloring, sugar, milk

### Directions:

1. Scrape off as much as possible with spatula or dull knife.
2. Apply cool detergent solution, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
5. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
6. Rinse thoroughly with water and blot until dry.

### Cocktails

Stain: Colorless to light brown, absorbed.

Contains: Alcohol, tanning, sugar

### Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
3. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Coffee

Stain: Brown with irregular edge, darkening with heat and age

Contains: Tannins, sugar, fatty acids, alcohols, oils, milk, cream

### Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot. (Use enzyme detergent if cream was present.)
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

*NOTE: Ammonia will set stains on wool and silk but may help in removal from other fabrics.*

### Cough Syrup

Stain: Usually absorbed with an irregular edge, sticky when wet, stiff when dry

Contains: Honey, sugar, syrup, menthol, alcohol, flavoring, coloring matter

### Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

### Crayons

Stain: Built-up, sometimes shiny

Contains: Wax, grease, pigment, coloring matter

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1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
4. Apply detergent solution, blot.
5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### **Egg (raw)**

Stain: White and/or yellow, built-up, coagulates with heat

Contains: Albumin, oils, fats, coloring matter

Directions:

1. Blot up as much as possible.
2. Apply detergent solution, blot.
3. Apply cold ammonia solution, blot.
4. If stain remains, apply enzyme detergent.
5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### **Food Coloring**

Stain: Absorbed, irregular edge

Contains: Coloring matter, propylene glycol

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blotting frequently. A dried stain will probably spread when wet.
2. Repeat step 1 until color is no longer transferred to the towel.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Rinse thoroughly with water and blot until dry.

### **Fruit Juice**

Stain: Light yellow or characteristic color of fruit, absorbed and splotchy with irregular edge

Contains: Tannin, acids, pulp, sugar, coloring matter

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
5. If stain remains, apply enzyme detergent, blot.
6. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### **Furniture Stain**

Stain: Brownish or reddish, absorbed, with irregular edge

Contains: Petroleum distillate, coloring matter

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
4. Apply detergent solution, blot.
5. Rinse with water and blot until dry.

*NOTE: This stain is almost impossible to remove completely.*

### **Glue (school)**

Stain: Stiff and shiny, usually built-up

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Contains: Starches, gelatins, albumins

Directions:

1. Apply water, blot.
2. Apply detergent solution, blot.
3. If stain remains, heat the detergent solution slightly and repeat step 2.
4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Grass

Stain: Green and/or brown smudges

Contains: Tannin, acids, oils, chlorophyl

Directions:

1. Apply amyl acetate if available to remove chlorophyl, blot.
2. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
3. Rinse with water, blot.
4. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
5. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
6. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

*NOTE: Bleaching (or professional stripping) may be necessary.*

### Gravy

Stain: Brownish, absorbed and built-up

Contains: Meat extracts, starch, proteins, milk, flour, seasonings

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Greases

Stain: Grayish or brownish, absorbed or built-up

Contains: Oils, sometimes soils

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Alternate steps 1 and 2 until stain is removed.
4. If stain remains, apply detergent solution, blot.
5. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
6. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
7. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

*NOTE: Bleaching (or professional stripping) may be necessary.*

### Ice Cream

Stain: Absorbed and built-up, stiff when dry

Contains: Cream, milk, egg, sugar, fruits, extracts, coloring matter

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply vinegar solution, blot.

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4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
6. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.

### **Ink (ballpoint)**

Stain: Can be any color, usually blue, absorbed

Contains: Basic or soluble aniline dyes, insoluble organic solvents, oils, resins, gums, binding agents such as shellac, varnish or petroleum

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
4. Apply amyl acetate if available, or acetone (except on acetate fibers).
5. If stain remains, apply rust remover or oxalic acid solution.
6. Bleaching (or professional stripping) may be necessary.

### **Jam & Jelly**

Stain: Reddish or bluish, absorbed and built-up

Contains: Pulp of fruit, sugar, tannin preservatives

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
3. Rinse with water, blot.
4. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### **Lipstick**

Stain: Red, pink, orange, soft and greasy

Contains: Pigment or dye in fat, waxes and oils

Directions:

1. Scrape off excess with spatula or dull knife.
2. Apply POG, blot, making sure not to reapply stain onto fabric.
3. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
4. Apply detergent, blot.
5. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
6. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
7. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

*NOTE: Try to avoid wet cleaning on wool. Use POG and dry cleaning solvents as long as possible.*

### **Merthiolate & Mercurochrome**

Stain: Orange-red, absorbed

Contains: Eosin dye in alcohol solution

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

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### Mildew

Stain: Grayish or brownish fungus with black spots

Directions:

1. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot.
4. Apply solution of oxidizing bleach (chlorine or perborate) \* Do not use chlorine bleach on wool or silk.
5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

*NOTE: May permanently damage fibers.*

### Mucilage

Stain: Either built-up or slightly absorbed, stiff with an irregular edge when dry

Contains: Albumins, animal proteins and gums

Directions:

1. Apply hot enzyme detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

### Mud

Stain: Grayish, brownish, reddish, or yellowish, absorbed and built-up

Contains: Soil with greases and oils, clay, iron

Directions:

1. Brush or scrape off as much as possible.
2. Apply detergent solution, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
5. If stain remains, apply POG and dry cleaning solvent alternately, blot until dry.

### Mustard

Stain: Yellowish, absorbed, built-up

Contains: Mustard seed, vinegar, salt, tumeric, oils, spices, flavorings

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
3. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
4. If stain remains, rust remover (oxalic acid solution) or bleaching may be necessary.

*NOTE: Do not use ammonia or alkalies.*

### Nail Polish

Stain: Usually pink or red, stiff, shiny and built-up

Contains: Red dye or pigment in a liquid cellulose acetate base, solvent, plasticizer

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Apply amyl acetate if available, or nail polish remover - PRETEST FIRST.
4. If stain remains, apply detergent solution, blot until dry.
5. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
6. Apply vinegar solution, blot.

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7. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Oils

Stain: Circular, elongated or cross-shaped, darkening with age

Contains: Petroleum distillate or vegetable oil, polyglycerides, methyl silicate, preservatives

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Alternate dry cleaning solvent and POG, blotting frequently.
4. Apply detergent solution, blot.
5. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
6. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
7. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Paint (OIL based)

Stain: Usually built-up and stiff

Contains: Pigments, drying oils, resins, gums, volatile solvents

Directions:

1. Apply specific thinner or solvent from paint label OR
1. Apply dry-cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
4. Alternate steps 2 and 3 until stain is removed.
5. If stain persists weight down the stain with towels dampened with dry cleaning solvent for several hours to loosen, blot with solvent.
6. Apply several drops of detergent solution and work into the stain, blot.
7. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
8. Alternate steps 2, 3, and 6 until stain is removed.
9. Rinse thoroughly with warm water, blot until dry.

### Paint (WATER based)

Stain: Absorbed or built-up, stiff when dry

Contains: Water, latex, pigments, emulsifiers, preservatives

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Rinse with water, blot until dry.
4. Apply POG, blot.
5. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.

### Rubber Cement

Stain: White or clear, built-up, possibly sticky or shiny

Contains: Rubber (synthetic or natural), resin, solvent

Directions:

1. Roll the glue off if it has hardened sufficiently.
2. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
3. Apply POG, blot.
4. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
5. Apply detergent solution, blot.

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6. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Rust

Stain: Reddish-brown, absorbed or built-up

Contains: Oxides of iron

Directions:

1. Apply rust remover or warm oxalic acid solution.
2. Allow to stand for 10-15 minutes.
3. Repeat with hot solution.
4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

### Shoe Polish

Stain: Usually black or brown, absorbed or built-up

Contains: Waxes, resins, solvents, dyes, shellac, alcohol, tannin

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
2. Apply POG, blot.
3. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
4. Apply detergent solution, blot.
5. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
6. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
7. If stain persists, bleaching (or professional stripping) may be necessary.

### Soft Drinks

Stain: Colorless, yellowish, reddish, or brownish, darkening with age

Contains: Tannin, sugar, vegetable coloring, flavoring, fruit extracts

Directions:

1. Apply cold detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
3. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
4. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### Soot

Stain: Black spots or smudges

Contains: Carbon, sulfur compounds, sometimes grease

Directions:

1. Apply dry cleaning solvent, blot.
2. Apply detergent solution, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

### Tar & Asphalt

Stain: Black, shiny, built-up or absorbed, distinctive odor

Contains: Coal tar or petroleum, sulfur compounds

Directions:

1. Scrape off as much as possible with spatula or dull knife
2. Apply dry cleaning solvent.
3. Apply POG, blot.
4. Apply detergent solution, blot.

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5. Rinse with water, blot until dry.

### **Toothpaste**

Stain: Whitish or greenish, absorbed or built-up

Contains: Soap, bleaching compound, flavoring, fluoride compound

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

### **Urine**

Stain: Yellowish or brown, darkening with age, absorbed

Contains: Urea, uric acid, ammonia, organic acids, pigments, cholesterol, albumins, proteoses

Directions:

1. Blot up as much as possible if still wet.
2. Apply detergent solution, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.
6. If stain remains, apply rust remover or oxalic acid solution.
7. Bleaching with 3-5% hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate might be necessary.

*NOTE: Urine stains may cause permanent dye removal from fibers.*

### **Vomit**

Stain: Various colors, absorbed or built-up

Contains: Food mucus, albumins, acids

Directions:

1. Blot up as much as possible.
2. Apply enzyme detergent, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

### **Wine**

Stain: Reddish or purplish, absorbed

Contains: Alcohol, sugar, tannin, coloring matter

Directions:

1. Apply detergent solution, blot.
2. Apply vinegar solution, blot.
3. Apply ammonia solution, blot.
4. If necessary, bleach with 3-5% hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate.
5. Rinse thoroughly with water, blot until dry.

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