

## How To Get Rid of Stains

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
AdhesiveTape Marks	Sponge washable non-synthetic fabrics with meths. Soak glass jars in hot water, then wipe with meths. Getting label residue off plastic is more difficult, as some glue removers also damage plastic. Try eucalyptus oil or diluted meths. Or you can laboriously pluck off the residue using another piece of sticky tape
Beer Stains	Soak in a solution of 3 parts cool water / 1 part white vinegar
Blood Stains	Soak for several hours in a solution of 1tsp salt / 600mL water, then rinse and soak in a solution of 1 part ammonia / 5 parts water. Or try a pre-wash laundry soaker.
Candlewax or Wax Crayon Stains	Candlewax Scrape away as much as possible. Place stain between layers of absorbent paper and press with a warm iron, changing the paper as it becomes soiled. Sponge residue with meths.
Chewing Gum Stains	Freeze with ice and break off as much as possible. Treat the residue with turps and wash in hot soapy water.
Coffee / Tea Stains	Coffee/tea Soak in warm water with a squirt of dishwashing detergent. Or try a pre-wash laundry soaker. Lubricate old stains first with glycerine.
Correction fluid Stains	Sponge with meths. If that doesn't work, try nail polish remover.
Deodorant-Antiperspirant Stains	Sponge or soak in a solution of 1Tbsp ammonia/1 cup warm water with a squirt of dishwashing detergent. Treat residual traces with turps.
Egg Stains	Use an enzyme-based laundry detergent on washables. For non-washables, dry with a paper towel, then lightly sponge with a solution of 1tsp white vinegar / 3tsp dishwashing detergent / 1 cup warm water. Or try a pre-wash laundry

soaker.

Fats & Oil Stains	Sprinkle with talc, leave for 30 minutes then scoop off. Lubricate older stains with mechanics' hand-cleaner or glycerine, then sponge with dishwashing detergent and warm water. Treat residual stains with turps.
Food Dye Stains	Rinse immediately with large quantities of lukewarm water. Treat with equal parts of meths and ammonia.
Fruit-Fruit juice Stains	Sponge or soak in warm water with a squirt of dishwashing detergent. Or try a pre-wash laundry soaker. Treat residual stains with meths.
Glue Stains	Soak cellulose-based glues in cold water with a squirt of dishwashing detergent. Or try a pre-wash laundry soaker. Meths works on PVA. Other glues may only respond to nail polish remover: spot test first.
Grass Stains	Sponge with meths, dry, then soak in water with a squirt of dishwashing detergent. Or try a pre-wash laundry soaker.
Hair Spray Stains	Sponge with meths.
Ink (ballpoint pen) Stains	Sponge with meths, then rinse thoroughly in cold water. Repeat as necessary.
Ink (liquid & marker) Stains	Remove excess with absorbent paper. Sponge or dip in a solution of equal parts meths and ammonia (spot test on coloured fabrics first). Rinse in warm water
Lipstick-Cosmetics Stains	Treat with meths, then soak in a solution of 5 parts dishwashing detergent / 1 part ammonia. Rinse thoroughly.
Mildew-Mould Stains	Treat white cotton or linen with a mixture of 1Tbsp chlorine bleach / 1L warm soapy water. On coloured fabrics dilute the bleach even more, and be prepared for some fading. See Removing mould or moss for more tips.
Milk- Cream-Icecream	Soak in warm water and dishwashing detergent. Or try a pre-wash laundry soaker. Treat residual

	fat stains with turps.
Motor oil Stains	Scrape away as much as possible and sponge with turps. For washable fabrics rub glycerine into the stain. Rinse under a hot tap, then soak in water with dishwashing detergent.
Nail Varnish Stains	Treat non-synthetic fabrics with nail polish remover (spot test first). Treat any residual marks with meths.
Paint (oil-based) Stains	Scrape off as much as possible and sponge residue with turps. If paint has dried, soften with glycerine first.
Paint (water-based & latex) Stains	Wash away fresh paint with cold water. Remove residue with meths. Once dry these paints are virtually impossible to remove.
Perfume Stains	Apply glycerine, then soak in a solution of equal parts white vinegar and water.
Perspiration Stains	Sponge with a solution of 1 part ammonia / 5 parts water, then rinse. Follow up by soaking in a solution of 1 part white vinegar / 3 parts water.
Rust Marks	Spread over a bowl of boiling water and sprinkle with lemon juice. After a few minutes rinse well and repeat. Boil stubborn stains in a solution of 4Tbsp white vinegar / 600mL water. Rinse well. Not suitable for wool, silk or acrylic.
Scorch Marks	Light marks can often be removed by immediately washing in warm soapy water, rinsing and drying in the sun.
Shoe polish/cleaners Stains	Sponge with dishwashing detergent, then soak in warm soapy water. On non-washables, or for stubborn marks, sponge with a solution of equal parts meths and ammonia, and rinse well.
Tar/bitumen	Scrape off as much as possible. Sponge with turps to soften. Rub Vaseline into the stain, leave for 30 minutes, then wash in soapy water.
Tea-stained cups	Whiten pottery stained by tea or coffee by soaking it for an hour in a solution of 1tsp chlorine bleach / 1 cup water. Alternatively, rub

with damp salt.

Sunscreen	Absorb excess with tissues, then sponge with meths
Tomato sauce	Sponge with dishwashing detergent, then rinse. Treat residue with meths
Urine stains	Soak in a solution of 1 part ammonia / 5 parts water, followed by a solution of 1 part white vinegar / 3 parts water. Or use a nappy soaker.
Varnish Stains	Sponge with turps or nail polish remover.
Red Wine Stains	Flush with lots of cold water, then pour salt on the stain, and let it stand for an hour. Scrape off the salt and rinse thoroughly. But see Carpet care if the wine is on the carpet

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