

REMOVING STAINS - *It's Part Science. Part Art.*

On this page, you'll find some of the most common types of stains and the steps you can take to help remove them – many of which we've used successfully at The Laundry at Linens Limited for over half a century.

Stains are tricky, even mysterious. In fact, they rarely come out completely. So don't be surprised if a stain that you thought you removed reappears again over time. But don't be discouraged. It's often the case that to launder an item to your satisfaction, you may have to repeat the same steps more than once.

In general, flushing a stain with water is the best technique. But make certain that you have enough water to thoroughly flow through the stain. Avoid rubbing the stain without enough water, as this may cause damage to the fabric. Often, making a paste or concentrated solution of detergent, like The Laundry's Finest Laundry Powder, will help to remove a stain.

When working a stain, it is best to dab it with a very wet cloth, and then flush with water. It's always a good idea to place a white terrycloth towel or a paper towel underneath the stain to absorb what comes out. Also, be certain to replace, clean or rinse frequently whatever cloth, sponge, cotton swab, cotton ball or napkin you are using. This will prevent you from simply rubbing the stain back into the item.

And of course, always remember the most important rules of stain removal – “Don't Panic!” and “Don't Rush It!”

TRICKS OF THE TRADE.

RED WINE: First flush the stain with cold water. If the stain does not release, it may release by soaking the affected area in cold water. Then launder normally.

GREASE OR OTHER OIL BASED STAINS: First flush the stain with hot water. If the stain doesn't release, then work, or soak the stain with a concentrated paste of The Laundry's Finest Laundry Powder or Dawn® dishwashing liquid and plenty of hot water. Then launder as usual.

CANDLE WAX: If wax gets on your tablecloth, ideally it should be run under hot water. Otherwise, wait for the wax to dry completely and then remove the dried wax as best you can by breaking it off by hand. Do not use a sharp knife! You may use a butter knife, but please be very careful. Then run the waxy area under hot water. Remember, the dye in wax is often what leaves a stain. So, wherever possible, use white or light colored candles!

LAUNDRY CARE BASICS

CHOCOLATE / LIPSTICK / MAKEUP: First flush the stain with warm/hot water. If the stain doesn't release, work or soak the stain with a concentrated paste of The Laundry's Finest Laundry Powder, or rubbing alcohol, and plenty of hot water. Then launder normally.

BERRIES / FRUIT: First flush the stain with warm water. If the stain does not release, then soak in an oxygen-based cleaner mixed with warm water. Then launder normally, adding a little oxygen-based cleaner in the washer water.

COFFEE: First flush with cold water. Work the stain with a concentrated paste of The Laundry's Finest Laundry Powder. Then rinse and launder normally.

CATSUP / TOMATO: First flush with cold water. For oily tomato sauce stains, you can try soaking the stained item in Dawn® dishwashing liquid and cold water. Then launder normally.

GRASS STAIN: Apply a concentrated paste of The Laundry's Finest Laundry Powder and work the stain with a gentle rubbing action. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and launder normally.

MILDEW: This is the toughest of stains. First flush with hot water. You may use a little bleach if the item is white. But be careful with colors, since bleach will remove color. Unfortunately, if none of this works, then the item will need to be replaced.

NAIL POLISH / PAINT: First flush with warm/hot water. You may carefully try to remove the stain with a cotton swab using nail polish remover, varnish remover or paint thinner. Be very careful with colors, since the solvent will remove color.

INK: Ask a professional for help.