

## **CARPET SPOT CLEANING HELP**

If you have any children, pets, and/or entertain in your home, occasional carpeting spots are a fact of life!

In the event of small stain emergencies, you can treat these spots on your own using the tips and guidelines in this booklet. For major spot mishaps, call your **Guarantee System** specialists at **(616) 451-0787**. They will tell you if there is a home spot remedy you can use yourself, and/or what action you should take until they arrive to professionally take care of the problem.

Remember these three keys to successful spot removal:

1. Be prepared to tackle the spot right away! Keep a "carpet first aid kit" handy, consisting of the following supplies:
  - Laundry detergent -liquid and granular
  - Oxygen bleach (do not use chlorine bleach)
  - Grease solvent, dry cleaning fluid, or spot remover
  - Nail polish remover
  - Rubbing alcohol
  - Turpentine
2. Act fast - scrape or blot up all excess spill or blemish as soon as possible.
3. Pre-treat the spot, and when water is called for, use only cool water to avoid setting stains.

Here are the basics for approaching the three main types of "do-it-yourself" cleanable spots:

### **Greasy Spots**

1. Sponge gently with grease solvent or apply granular detergent.
2. Rinse with clear water.

### **Non-Greasy Spots**

1. Sponge with a solution consisting of 1 teaspoon of liquid detergent to 1 cup of water. (Do not use soap).
2. Rinse with clear water.

### **Animal Stains**

1. Sponge freely with cold water.
2. Sponge with detergent suds.
3. Rinse with clear water.
4. If stain remains:
  - A. Apply a solution of 3 tablespoons white vinegar to 1 quart of water.
  - B. Rinse well.

**Note:** To sponge spots:

- Work lightly
- Work from center to edges
- Feather" area by sponging edges irregularly
- Blot damp/dry quickly to avoid rings

**Note:** When instructed to use "detergent suds" for cleaning, mix 1 tablespoon of detergent to 1 cup of water. Always rinse thoroughly after any spot cleaning.

## SPOT EMERGENCY TYPES AND REMEDIES

### **Candle Wax**

1. Scrape off excess wax with dull knife.
2. Cover spot with plain brown paper bag
3. Cover paper bag with a towel.
4. With your iron on the coolest setting, iron the towel until the wax melts, and is absorbed into the paper bag.

### **Car Grease**

1. Apply cooking oil sparingly.
2. Let stand 15 minutes.
3. Blot up excess oil.
4. Sponge with grease solvent.
5. Rinse well.

### **Catsup**

1. Sponge with cool water.
2. If stain remains:
  - A. Work detergent suds into fabric.
  - B. Rinse.
3. If stain remains:
  - A. Clean with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse thoroughly.

### **Chocolate**

1. Sponge freely with cool water.
2. Work detergent suds into spot.
3. Rinse.
4. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

### **Cigarette Burns**

Cigarette burns can be partially remedied by clipping off blackened ends with small sharp scissors. Once this is done:

1. Work in a detergent solution.
2. Rinse well.

### **Coffee or Tea**

1. If the beverage does not contain cream, start with **Step 2**.  
-or-  
If the beverage contains cream, first sponge with grease solvent.
2. Sponge with detergent suds.
3. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse thoroughly.

### **Crayon**

1. Moisten spot with cool water.
2. Rub in full-strength liquid or granular detergent.
3. Rinse.
4. Repeat if necessary.
5. If stain remains:
  - A. Use oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Fingernail Polish**

1. Sponge with acetone or nail polish remover.
2. Blot.
3. Repeat as often as necessary.
4. Rinse thoroughly.

## **Fruit-berry Juice**

1. Sponge immediately with cool water.
2. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Glue (Elmer's Household)**

1. Blot with warm water.
2. Sponge with detergent suds.
3. Rinse.

## **Glue (Epoxy, contact, animal base, etc.)**

1. Treat with a solvent or thinner recommended on container.
2. Blot up excess.
3. Rinse well when finished.

## **Grass**

Sponge with rubbing alcohol diluted with 2 parts water.

-or-

1. Moisten spot.
2. Rub in full-strength liquid or granular detergent.
3. Rinse.
4. Repeat if necessary.
5. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Grease**

1. Sponge with grease solvent.
2. Work liquid or granular detergent into spot.
3. Rinse thoroughly.

## **Gum**

1. Harden gum with ice cube.
2. Scrape with dull knife.
3. Sponge with grease solvent.
4. Rinse well.

## **Ice Cream**

1. Sponge freely with cool water.
2. Work detergent suds into spot.
3. Rinse.
4. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Ink (washable)**

1. Flush with cool water.
2. Blot up excess water.
3. Work in detergent suds.
4. Rinse.
5. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Ink (Mimeograph)**

1. Sponge with grease solvent or turpentine.
2. Work detergent suds into stain.
3. Rinse well.

## **Ink (permanent)**

Permanent ink cannot be completely removed by spot cleaning. Minimize the stain by flushing with cool water, then blotting.

## **Lipstick, Rouge, Eye Shadow**

1. Rub liquid or granular detergent into dampened stain.
2. Rinse.
3. Repeat until outline is gone.
4. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Liquor**

1. Sponge immediately with cool water.
2. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Mud**

1. Let spot dry.
2. Clean with a soft brush, moving in the direction of the carpet nap to avoid distortion.
3. Rinse repeatedly with cool water.

## **Mucus**

1. Sponge with a solution of ¼ cup salt to 1 quart of lukewarm water.
2. Wash with detergent suds.
3. Rinse well.

## **Mustard**

1. Rub full-strength detergent into stain.
2. Rinse.
3. Repeat.
4. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Oil (lubricating/cooking)**

1. Sponge with grease solvent.
2. Work liquid or granular detergent into spot.
3. Rinse thoroughly.

## **Paint**

1. Sponge with the paint thinner recommended on can, or with turpentine, until the paint disappears.
2. Work full-strength detergent into stain.
3. Rinse well.
4. Repeat if necessary.

## **Rubber Cement**

1. Scrape off gummy excess carefully, to avoid damaging fibers.
2. Sponge thoroughly with grease solvent.
3. Rinse well.

## **Rust**

Rust stains usually require professional cleaning service, but you may be able to remove the spot by applying full-strength lemon juice, then rinsing well.

## **Soft Drinks**

1. Sponge immediately with cool water.
2. Work liquid detergent into stain.
3. Rinse.
4. If stain remains:
  - A. Treat with oxygen bleach.
  - B. Rinse well.

## **Shoe Polish (paste)**

1. Treat with grease solvent.
2. Blot.
3. Sponge with detergent suds.
4. Rinse well.
5. Repeat if necessary.

## **Shoe Dye**

There is no home remedy for shoe dye removal. Please contact Guarantee System for professional assistance.

## **Tar**

1. Sponge with turpentine.
2. Work in full-strength detergent solution.
3. Rinse thoroughly.

## **Urine**

**Note:** To be successfully removed, urine must be treated before the spot dries.

1. Sponge repeatedly with cool water.
2. Work liquid detergent into stain.
3. Rinse thoroughly.
4. If still discolored:
  - A. Cover with table salt.
  - B. Leave overnight.
  - C. Vacuum.

## **Vomit**

1. Sponge with a solution of ¼ cup salt to 1 quart of lukewarm water.
2. Wash with detergent suds.
3. Rinse well.