

DLI's Consumer News You Can Use

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How To Prevent and Treat Common Summertime Stains

Your picture of paradise may include cheeseburgers, soda, ice cream, pizza, and other summertime favorites, but that picture certainly does not include spots on your shirts and shorts. These tips will help you confront the stains of summer. For a care-free and stainless summer, don't forget we're here to help! And make sure you check the care label of any garment before using any of these suggestions.

French Fries

Treat as a grease stain, like meats. Wash in hottest water possible.

Pizza

This stain has a little bit of everything, including tannin and fats. Blot off excess stains and use a mild detergent.

Ice Cream & Popsicles

Use mild detergent. Chocolate can be especially hard to remove. Pre-treat it.

Alcoholic Beverages

Alcohol may damage silk or acetate and can disturb dyes. Blot with water and wash.

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Steaks

Blot the excess of these grease stains and dab with water. Use a pre-treatment such as "Shout." Launder. Take dry cleanable garments to the dry cleaner.

Lemonade

The acidic lemon juice may cause some dyes to change color.

Candy Apples

Blot, don't rub. Should wash out, unless it contains a lot.

How to Care for an Item Without a Care Label

Have you ever wondered how we know how to process an item that lacks a care label? As most cleaners know, receiving garments without care labels is not uncommon. When we first see an item of this type, whether it is a comforter, a pair of twill pants, or an evening gown, the first thing we do is test for colorfastness. This is done by blotting and crocking with drycleaning solvent and a water/detergent solution to best determine the best method of care with regard to color.

The next step involves testing any trim that is attached to the item. This includes testing the coating on the trim in addition to the trim itself.

Of course, it is important to remember that these are only tests to determine the most optimal method of cleaning. Damage may still occur during the cleaning process even though the garment has been tested. However we do have an expert eye when it comes to even the most unusual items.

Customer Question: How do you remove pet urine stains from carpet and upholstery?

A: We love our pets, but they also require lots of clean up, including urine stains on carpet and upholstery. Usually the stains appear as absorbed, yellowish or brownish discolorations and are more apparent on lighter-colored carpets and upholstery.

There are many pet stain removal products on the market, usually available in the cleaning supplies section of your local grocery store. Before using any cleaning product, it is important to test for colorfastness, by applying a small amount on an unexposed area of the carpet or upholstery. Let stand for five minutes, then rinse. If the color is affected, don't use the product. Never over-wet the area, and always use clean, white towels or paper towels. If the stain removal formula is unable to remove the stain, try mixing one teaspoon of ammonia with 1/2 cup water and blot. Blot any remaining stain removal agents or moisture with a clean, white towel, and let dry.

So, first test and be patient. If the stain persists after this process, it may become necessary to seek advice from a carpet cleaning professional.