



Fabric & Carpet

Spot Cleaning & Care Guide

By CHRIS GREEN

Fabric & Carpet Spot Cleaning & Care Tips

Stain Removal Guide for Fabrics & Bedding

Important Information & Disclaimer

- ! Please note that while this advice is offered in good faith, no responsibility is accepted for claims arising from the treatments proposed. Carry out these procedures at your own risk otherwise call a professional upholstery cleaner to carry out the work for you.
- ! Before carrying out any of these procedures always test recommended cleaning products or ingredients in an inconspicuous area and test for any adverse reactions and if the fabric is colourfast and no bleeding or colour discolouration occurs.
- ! Always look for and read the carpet, fabric or furniture manufacturers recommendations and guidelines so any breach of manufacturers warranties do not occur.

Stain Removal Guide for Carpets and Fabrics:

Alcoholic Beverages

After the moisture has been blotted up, dab at the stain with a clean cloth dampened in rubbing alcohol. Then blot repeatedly with liquid detergent mixed with cool water. Blot dry with a towel. Dab again with clear cool water and blot dry.



Blood

After the moisture has been blotted up, dab at the stain with a clean cloth dampened in rubbing alcohol. Then blot repeatedly with liquid detergent mixed with cool water. Blot dry with a towel. Dab again with clear cool water and blot dry.

Chewing gum

Rub an ice cube over the gum to harden it, then scrape off the excess with a dull knife. To remove what's left, use dry cleaning fluid.

- ! **Caution: ensure that no flame or lighted cigarette is near and use in a well-ventilated area.**

Chocolate (and other soft candy)

This is a combination greasy/non-greasy stain. Scrape excess away, then go over the spot with cool water mixed with a liquid detergent. Blot thoroughly and then clean with dry cleaning fluid.

! Caution: ensure that no flame or lighted cigarette is near and use in a well-ventilated area.

Coffee and Tea

Sponge with warm water. Apply warm glycerine. Leave for 30 minutes. Flush out with water and dry quickly with towels.

Cosmetics

Sponge with warm water. Apply warm glycerine. Leave for 30 minutes. Flush out with water and dry quickly with towels.

Fruit and fruit juices

After excess is blotted up or scraped away, blot the spot with cool water. If a stain remains, add liquid detergent and a drop of vinegar to the water.

Dab the spot with this mixture and blot until there's no trace of a stain. Then go over the area lightly with clear water to remove traces of vinegar.

Grease (including hair grease and oil)

Scrape away excess if necessary and then dab repeatedly at the stain with dry cleaning fluid. If any stain remains, go over the area with a lukewarm mixture of liquid detergent and water.

Always make sure you use a clean portion so you don't put the stain back in the fabric. Last, go over the area with a clean cloth moistened with cool clear water.

Ice cream

Scrape away excess and apply cool water mixed with liquid detergent, blotting frequently with a dry cloth so as not to saturate the fabric. Let dry and then go over any remaining stain with dry cleaning fluid. Blot dry.

Ink

Moisten with warm glycerine. Leave for 10 minutes. Apply liquid detergent and brush lightly. Flush out with water and dry quickly.

Iodine

Rub with cut lemon before sponging with warm water. Apply small quantity of detergent with clean cloth. Blot stain then remove soapy residue with cloth wrung out in warm water and white vinegar solution (1/3 vinegar to 2/3 water).

Milk and vomit

Blot or scrape away the excess, then take a clean soft cloth and blot. Apply clear cool water to the area, blotting frequently. Then blot with a detergent solution to which you've added a small amount of ammonia. Blot dry and wait a few minutes.

Go over the area with dry cleaning fluid, blot dry. Finally, blot the area lightly with a cloth moistened with rubbing alcohol.

Soft Drinks, Sweets and Syrups.

Sponge with water, add warm glycerine and work into stain. Flush out with water and dry.

Shoe Polish

Apply liquid paraffin to loosen the stain, then sponge with dry cleaning fluid.

! Caution: ensure that no flame or lighted cigarette is near and use in a well-ventilated area.

Urine

It is especially important to treat this stain right away, before the urine dries. Otherwise, the urine may react with the fabric dyes and cause permanent discolouration. First, dab at the stain with a solution of white vinegar and water and blot dry.

Then apply a mixture of liquid detergent and cool water, blotting frequently and with a dry cloth to avoid saturating the fabric. Finally, dab the spot with clear cool water and blot thoroughly.

Water spots

Blot thoroughly and then dampen the entire spot with clear white vinegar. Wait a few minutes. When the area is dry, moisten it again with clear water, blotting with a dry cloth after every application of the damp cloth.

! If the fabric has a pile, brush in the direction of the pile when it is dry.

Stain Removal Procedure for Upholstery

1. Always clean up spills quickly to avoid staining. Start by removing any solid debris.
2. Get a clean absorbent cloth and run under a tap until wet. Ring out the cloth tightly so it is just damp then carefully blot away any liquid or scrape away any solids remaining without heavy rubbing.

3. Next apply a [“Neutral PH Spot Cleaner”](#) to a damp clean white absorbent cloth, towel or nappy and then lightly rub and blot stain away. **Never spray spot cleaners directly onto fabric**

(See warning regarding testing below)

4. If rubbing is required always watch carefully that there is no damage occurring on the fibres as this will be irreparable if you continue.

5. For stubborn stains especially food stains you can use a small bristle brush similar to a finger nail cleaning brush to remove in-ground particles. Brush lightly. Then use a damp cloth to evenly feather out damp area to avoid over wetting and to prevent water marks. Once again watch carefully that there is no damage occurring on the fibres as this will be irreparable if you continue.

Repeat as necessary.

Warning

Before carrying out any of these procedures always **test recommended cleaning products or ingredients in an inconspicuous area and test for any adverse reactions**. Make sure the fabric is colour fast and no bleeding or dis-colouration occurs.

Carry out these procedures at your own risk. If in doubt call a professional upholstery cleaner to carry out the work for you.

Tips for Removing Pet Hair from Upholstered Furniture

Removing pet hair can be a real pain but, after doing a little bit of research, I found this article that could make removing pet hair from your upholstered furniture an easier task.

Pet hair on your furniture is one of the all time nuisances. If you have cats and dogs, then you know all about pet hair on the furniture, carpets, drapes and floors.

Removing pet hair is an extremely time-consuming project, and yet we never seem to remove it all. It is also a project that is not one of our favourite things to do. We try vacuuming, lint rollers and all the new products they have out there to remove pet hair, and unless your furniture is leather, it still keeps clinging to your furniture.



When you are cleaning your home, you vacuum, your steps, your furniture, your floors and your carpeting, you still manage to find pet hair on the fabrics surface.

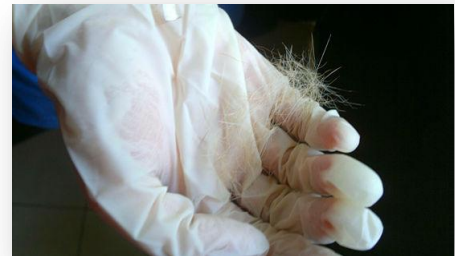
Quite often you'll even find it on your curtains.

Hair can be a nuisance, especially with cats, because they lay all over your furniture. But they are like our children. Even a small dog, and yes big dogs as well, love to hang out on the furniture relaxing. We deal with the hair and even the dander every day.

What can we do to decrease or completely remove all that hair?

Well there are a few ways to help remove that stubborn pet hair. If you like Fabreeze, and vanilla/lavender is my favourite, you can mist your furniture and rub your hands across the fabric.

If you are not fond of rubbing your hand over the furniture, you can use a rubber glove. Surgical gloves are probable the best type to use. The pet hair will cling right on your hand. It is actually amazing.



You may want to hold a plastic grocery bag to keep putting the wet hair in. When you go around and do this, and depending on amount of pets and hair, you will remove all the pet hair off of your furniture, you'll also end up with it smelling fresh and clean, and it air dries so you have no mess to clean up.

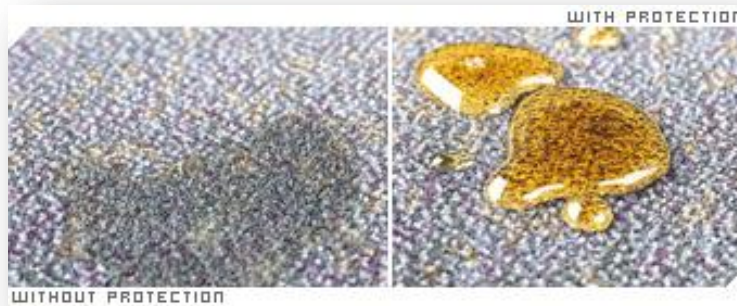
Another way is to mist your furniture and use a fabric softener of your choice. This also works well, and also aids in freshening your furniture. You may find the glove method is an easier choice.

If there is a particular area of carpeting that your pet frequently lies on, first vacuum and then you can use the same procedure.

It's quick, easy and works like a charm. You will be very surprised at the results, so next time you want to remove pet hair, try this and see how it works for you.

Fabric Protection

Fabric Protection is designed to protect Furniture Fabrics and soft furnishings from stains, grime, dirt and soil build up.



Having [fabric protector](#) applied to your furniture, furnishings, car seats and carpet will help:

- ✓ Maintain a new, clean appearance for longer
- ✓ Protect against spills, dirt, grime and staining
- ✓ Allow for easier cleaning in the future
- ✓ Reduce the allergens that can trigger Asthma, Hay Fever, Sinus and Eczema
- ✓ Control and inhibit the growth of Mould, Mildew and Bacteria
- ✓ Control the population of Dust Mites by controlling the growth of their food source.

Fabric Protector is also designed to coat the fibres with an invisible barrier which changes the treated fibres surface and helps to stop fluids from penetrating and staining.

How To Apply

If you are applying a fabric protector from a spray bottle or from an airless spray gun, spray surface lightly and evenly and over lapping the previous run, make sure you do not wet the fabric, only apply enough product so the fabric feels damp all over.

Make sure you spray all high traffic areas and front and back of cushions.

Health Tip: Always wear a proper respirator mask and gloves when applying fabric protector even if it's a water based product.

Always Test First

Always test the product in an inconspicuous area first and check for colour fastness on the fabric or for any adverse reactions before starting any application.

Coverage:

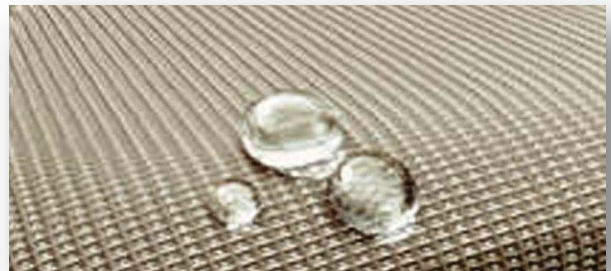
1 litre of [water based Fabric Protector](#) will be approximately enough to do an application on a 5 to 6 seater lounge suite depending on how many cushions etc you have.

Drying Time

Water Based Fabric Protector

Most fabric protection products are water based and the drying time vary slightly but as a general rule of thumb the drying time will be roughly around 3 to 4 hours in warmer weather and 4-6 hours in cooler weather.

For maximum protection total curing time is around 48 hours.



Solvent Based Fabric Protector

There are some fabric protectors that are solvent based, these products are **very toxic** and have a very strong smell **so for health reasons it is better to avoid them.**

But if you still do want to use them their drying and curing time is much quicker than water based products.

Touch dry in 15 minutes and properly cured and dry in about 24 hours.

A Simple Guide for Spot Cleaning Spills and Stains on Carpet

When you're planning a dinner party and the only thing on your mind is "What if someone spills on my carpet?" What should you do?

Aside from recommending that you don't serve red wine or coffee, here's a simple guide for treating stains and maintaining carpets.

Always clean up spills quickly to avoid staining. Start by removing any solid debris. Clean the spill using clean, cold water and blotting with white paper towels or cloths.



If this doesn't work try using a [neutral PH spot cleaner](#)

Regular vacuuming and spot treatment will improve the quality and life span of your carpets.

Since chemicals are hard on the fibres of carpets, you should always start with mild cleaning solution before moving on.

Start with clean water and move onto a mild solution of liquid soap (never use laundry detergent) or an oxygen based cleaner which usually works well on organic stains (food, animal, blood) before using chemical spot removers.

Always try to use a natural spot cleaner that doesn't contain harsh chemicals

Test the [cleaning products for carpets](#) in an inconspicuous spot to make sure there are no adverse reactions or staining.

Place a white paper towel or cloth on the tested area to check for colour transfer.

If the spot cleaner is safe apply a small amount of spot removal product to a clean, white cloth and work your way from the OUTSIDE of the stain inwards.

When the stain is removed rinse with clean water and blot the excess out. Replace towels when they are too wet to absorb anymore water.

Be careful to avoid over wetting the carpet as it can cause browning, water marks and other damage including mildew.

Taking the time to treat spills before they're stains will go a long way towards keeping your carpets looking as good as new!

For persistent or hard to remove stains you may need to call a professional carpet cleaner.

How to Remove Dents In Carpet Caused By Furniture Legs

Here's my tip: Dents in carpets (from furniture legs sitting on them for a long time) come right out if you put an ice cube in the middle of the dent. Leave the ice cube alone and let it melt completely. Within a few hours the dent will be totally gone.

How do I Remove Nail Polish from my Carpet?

This fix is super easy and you'll be amazed at how well it works. First of all don't panic and don't rub the spot, but you will need to try to work quickly before it gets too dry. Begin by taking several dry paper towels and gently press the spots in order to lift the majority of the excess nail polish.

Next spray the spot with a regular glass cleaner (Windex or whatever brand you have on hand) and then, at first, blot with clean dry paper towels.

Once you lift most of the nail polish you can



then spray the spot once again with the glass cleaner and gently rub the carpet quickly in a circular motion, changing paper towels until the spot is gone.

The lighter the carpet the harder it will be to remove of course, but with a little elbow grease it should work with no problem.

How to Care For Carpet

Like other fine furnishings, carpet requires proper care, and you should reference your residential warranty for specific care requirements.

There are also a few simple steps you can take to insure the lasting beauty of your carpet:

- ✓ Keep the dirt/soil out.
- ✓ Use walk-off mats at entrances and other areas to keep outside dirt and moisture from being tracked onto the carpet. Clean mats frequently. Keep your paths and entrances free of excessive dirt.
- ✓ The best way to reduce dirt accumulation and prolong the life of your carpet is to vacuum, vacuum, vacuum! Most dirt, even dust, is in the form of hard particles. When left in the carpet, these gritty, sharp particles abrade the pile as effectively as sandpaper.
- ✓ How frequently should you vacuum? That depends on the amount of foot traffic and household soil to which your carpet is exposed. More use means more frequent vacuuming.
- ✓ The best type a vacuum cleaner is one with a rotating brush or “brush/beater bar” to agitate the pile and mechanically loosen soil particles.
- ✓ The exception to this is for shag styled products with longer yarns which might tend to wrap around a rotating brush. For these styles use a suction-only vacuum. Be aware that some vacuums have overly aggressive action which may damage the surface of your carpet.
- ✓ Cheap vacuum cleaners can remove surface dirt but they will not effectively remove the hidden particles embedded in the pile.
- ✓ Prompt attention to spots and spills is essential. Some spilled materials will stain or discolour carpet if not removed promptly.
- ✓ Other spills can leave a sticky residue that may result in increased soiling if not removed.

Recommended Products

[Fabric Magic Spot Cleaner](#)

[Carpet Magic](#)

[Ecoshield Professional Strength Stain Remover](#)

[Ecoshield Fabric Spot Cleaner](#)

[Ecoshield Fabric Deodoriser](#)

[Ecoshield Fabric Protector](#)

[Ecoshield Fabric Care Kit](#)

[Stain Shield Fabric Protector](#)

About the Author?

Chris Green the owner of Furniture Care Products has been involved in the furniture industry since 1980 in a number of areas including 20 years Furniture Transport & Logistics, 20 years in selling furniture care and floor care products as well as upholstery cleaning, fabric protection application and leather cleaning.

During his time in the furniture transport business he discovered that customers were having a hard time getting the right advice the right care products to look after their new furniture.

In 1998 Chris started Superior Furniture Care and built the business by sourcing a range of premium quality timber furniture care and repair products. Over time the range expanded to leather care, fabric care, floor protection and floor care products.

In 2013 the business was split into two separate businesses. Aussie Furniture Care for the product range and Superior Furniture Care for the fabric protection, upholstery cleaning & leather cleaning services.

With his knowledge and experience Chris has been able to build up a range of top quality products that he has personally used and tested. No products are added to the range unless they adhere to a strict criteria.

All products must do what they say they will do, they must be safe, environmentally friendly and must produce excellent results for customers.

Every product in all ranges come with a 100% Money Back Guarantee

The [Furniture Care Products](#) website was created in 2005 and since then Chris has also written 6 ebooks available for Free download on the site as well as numerous how to videos which are also available to view on this site.