



The Whitehursts'

Dry Cleaning News

Ready to Wear. Every Time. Guaranteed!

APRIL 2022



Mark and Family David and Sherry

The Secret to Stain Removal

When you drip some red white on your white silk blouse, what do you do next? To begin with, always check the care label. But sometimes that's not enough when you're talking about a favorite piece of your wardrobe.

Here's the best advice I can give about removing stains from clothing yourself at home.

The first step in most every circumstance is to remove the excess spill immediately.

- Soak up any excess liquid spill by gently blotting (not rubbing) - on both sides of the garment if possible
- For thick spills like salad dressing, use a spoon to gently remove the excess

Your next step might be to use a commercial stain removal product. Or maybe you'll just toss it in the washer and dryer. But do these steps work for all stains and all fabrics? Absolutely NOT!

Check the care label.

Maybe using a clean, wet towel would help. Maybe not. It all depends on the type of spill, the fibers, and even the weave of the fabric. For example, terry cloth can take more aggressive handling than a cotton shirt or blouse. And a cotton shirt can take more scrubbing than a silk wedding gown. Can silk or acetate be cleaned with water (don't try it)? What about viscose (yes to water)? There are alternative treatments using solvents, water, vacuum, steam, and more.

Using a commercial stain removal product for a protein stain like blood is applied differently on wool than on acetate or polyester. There's chemistry involved. Hopefully the instructions on the commercial product are detailed enough

to work successfully for you. If not, either the stain remains or you remove color from the fabric around the stain, which typically permanently damages the garment.

But here's how you can successfully remove more stains in three EASY steps:

1. Spend a couple of years studying textiles and chemistry and learn under the guidance of a trained and experienced textile specialist.
2. You'll need some tools of the trade like -
 - a spotting board with vacuum (helps pull a chemical agent through the garment),
 - brushes (for tamping or tapping stain removal products to penetrate and break up the spot),
 - a spatula (to help work the out stain), towels (to absorb cleaning agents and water from the garment and absorb the stain as it is washed through the garment),
 - cheesecloth (for absorbing and for wrapping brushes used on delicate garments),
 - tweezers (to hold small samples of fabric when identifying fabrics),
 - eyedroppers (to apply small amounts of stain removal agents to stain),
 - litmus and pH paper (to test and make sure all of the stain removal agents have been successfully removed from and to test the acidity and alkalinity of the stained area).
3. Take the time (if you have it) to apply your knowledge and tools to save your garment - and accept the fact that every spot cannot be removed. This is often the case when someone

has tried to remove the stain with the wrong agent or when the garment has been washed and placed in a dryer without the stain being removed. This can cause the stain to set, sometimes making further recovery to be unsuccessful.

The **BEST** way to remove stains in the Birmingham area is to bring it to our experienced textile specialists as soon as possible. Always remove the excess spill first. And then leave the rest of the work to the pros. You'll save time, energy, and have a better chance of getting your garment back in the condition it was before the stain.

Some dry cleaners, especially the low priced cleaners, do not work on stain removal beyond cleaning the garment.

Please understand that even the most trained and experienced technicians cannot remove every stain. But the good ones will try and they will be successful more often than not.

One more bit of advice. When you bring in your clothes (or send them in if you use our dry cleaning and laundry pickup and delivery service), be sure to let us know about any stains and what procedures or products you have applied.

Your clothes will last longer if you follow this advice - "Leave it to the **PROS**."

David

Any comments? Email me at David@ChampionCleaners.com



“Did You Know Where This Saying Came From...”

A Man Of Few Words



Meaning: A phrase used to describe someone who tends to be on the quiet side or a person who does not have much to say when they speak. Example: Mark doesn't have much to say, he's a man of few words, but I like that he's direct and gets to the point.

Origin: This phrase means what it says, which is uncommon for many of them, at least from my experience. Indeed, 'a man of few words' is exactly that: Some people

are not as chatty as others and might not have much to say when speaking. Perhaps the reason being is that they are shy, or maybe that's just how they prefer to talk. This expression with the wording that it has today has been around for at least 400 years. For example, a popular playwright known as William Shakespeare used the phrase in the play King Henry V, from 1599: "He hath heard that men of few words are the best men."

Making A Scene



Meaning: Behaving in such a way that it disturbs the public; drawing undue attention to oneself by being dramatic.

Origin: This phrase possibly has a background in theater, where comedic, dramatic, and other sorts of scenes are performed on a stage. Such performances draw the attention of the audience to the stage. Thus, if someone is being dramatic and drawing unnecessary attention to themselves, it might be said that they are 'making a scene,' it's as if they are an actor on stage during a theatrical performance. The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins mentions that Samuel Foote, a British playwright, wrote a play in the 1760s called, The Liar. One of the characters from the play says: "We parted this moment. Such a scene!" The expression with its modern phrasing is found in a book from 1825, where it reads: "When the company reached the dining-room, each placed himself at table where he chose, and the master and mistress of the house easily found means, without making a scene, to induce the four most distinguished women in company to sit by them."



Upping The Ante

Meaning: To increase the stakes in a betting game.

Origin: Upping the ante comes from betting games. The ante is the amount that all players must commit to the "pot" before the game begins. (The pot is what is won in the game, and will be the total of the ante plus all bets during the game.) Because a player

must at minimum "ante up," or pay the ante, in order to be allowed to play the game, upping the ante can quickly demonstrate how serious, committed, and solvent a player is. The significance of "upping the ante" is that it increases the overall cost of the game, hence the idiomatic meaning of "increasing the cost or risk of something."

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**Champion Cleaner's
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If you put it in your washer and dryer, we will
do that for you. Then we'll neatly fold your
clothes, towels, sheets and more then return
them to you ready to put away.

Our "On-Demand WDF" price is \$3.00/lb. Lower
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Rocky Ridge Cleaning Center

2548 Rocky Ridge Road Vestavia Hills, AL 35243

205.824.7737

Greystone

5403 Highway 280, Suite 101 Hoover, AL 35242

205.408.2797

Calera Cleaning Center

4204 Highway 31 Calera, AL 35040

205.668.4727

Crestline

42-A Church Street, Mtn. Brook AL 35213

205.871.2962

April Fools' Day



April Fools' Day is celebrated on April 1st every
year in different countries around the world.
Sometimes this is referred to as All Fools' Day.
It is not a national holiday but is widely known
as a day of practical jokes and pranks. April
Fools' Day seemed to have begun in France
in 1564. April 1 used to be New Year's Day,
but New Years was changed to January 1 that

year. People who insisted on celebrating the
old New Year became known as April fools and
it became common to play jokes on them.

**WE RECYCLE
HANGERS**

**Did you know that there is a
hanger shortage in the USA?
And did you know that we
recycle hangers?**

Rather than throw them out to be taken to the
land fill, please return your unneeded hangers
and we will reuse your hangers. We would
appreciate if you would sort them into like
kinds to help with this conservation effort.



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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Beside the normal stuff, we also clean:

- Wedding Gowns
- Area Rug Cleaning
- Suedes and Leathers
- Purses, luggage and backpacks
- Ugg Boots
- Wash Dry & Fold

And we do...

1. We are a Certified Wedding Gown Specialist
2. We are part of the Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network (CRDN) - We handle textile and electronics restoration due to damage from smoke, fire, water and mold.
3. Home and office dry cleaning pickup and delivery
4. Wash Dry & Fold service - including Champion Hamper service

Taco Liberty Bell:

In 1996, Taco Bell took out a full-page advertisement in The New York Times announcing that they had purchased the Liberty Bell to **“reduce the country’s debt”** and renamed it the **“Taco Liberty Bell”**.

When asked about the sale, White House press secretary Mike McCurry replied tongue-in-cheek that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold and would henceforth be known as the Lincoln- Mercury Memorial.

Time To Do This...

- ✓ Prune any dormant trees and nonflowering shrubs.
- ✓ Inspect decks, fences and paths.
- ✓ Declutter your living space.
- ✓ Make a green commitment for Earth Day.
- ✓ Set up outdoor rooms.
- ✓ Install AC units.
- ✓ Caulk the cracks.
- ✓ Clean out the gutters.
- ✓ Pressure wash your deck and home.
- ✓ Call the window washer (unless it's you!)