

To restore black cashmere wash it in hot suds, with a little borax in the water; rinse in very strong bluing water, and iron while damp.

Stains on flannels may be removed by applying yolk of egg and glycerine in equal quantities. Leave it for half an hour and then wash out.

When the nap is worn off of cloth it can sometimes be restored thus: soak the goods in cold water for an hour, then, with a pin or needle gently pick up the nap; after the nap is raised, brush it the right way with a soft brush.

Dissolve a heaping tablespoon of chloride of lime in a pail of water to remove mildew. Dip in the goods and spread out to dry. Repeat process. This will take out the worst case of mildew and many other stains. The lime must be well dissolved.

Mildew may be removed from awnings, etc., with the following preparation: Mix well together two tablespoons of soft soap, one of salt, two of powdered starch, and the juice of a lemon. Lay this mixture on both sides of the stain with a painter's brush and then lay the article on the grass day and night until the stain disappears.

Iodine stains are removed from linen (or the hands) by mixing one ounce of "hypo" and two ounces of water. The hypo is found at drug stores and photographic supply houses.

To freshen a skirt that has become wrinkled badly from a long crowded ride through the country, brush carefully so that all dust may be removed, then hang over a tub of hot water. After it has been thoroughly steamed it will have all the appearances of a tailor-cleaned garment.

When wishing to wash white trimmings on a dress, wring out a white cloth in starch water, place it on the trimming, then put a dry cloth over it, and iron with a hot iron. The dirt will come off into the starched cloth.

To Freshen Veils or Crape.—Take two teaspoonfuls of mucilage and two of hot water, dissolve thoroughly, and after stretching the veil as a lace curtain, moisten a sponge with the liquid and pass it over the veil. Do not remove veil until thoroughly dry.

To Keep Veils Fresh.—A rolling pin is covered very lightly with a piece of flannel, and over this a linen cover stiffly starched. Around this the veil is tightly and evenly wound.

To restore faded gray and slate-colored fabrics, rip the breadths apart, brush the widths perfectly free from dust. Save some tea leaves for two or three days, also whatever tea is left over, then boil well all together and strain. Put the goods in this and boil five minutes. Take out and rinse in warm water thoroughly. Run through a wringer and hang up to dry. Iron on the wrong side before they become too dry.

Soap bark is an effective cleaner of woolen skirts and men's clothes, as it is a quick eradicator of grease and dirt.

Get five cents' worth of the soap bark, pour over it a quart of boiling water; steep it gently over a fire for two hours, keeping the heat low, so that the water will not boil away. Then strain through a piece of cheese cloth and it is ready to use.

Any ripping apart of garments that needs to be done should be done before the cleansing process with soap bark takes place.

Brush the garments carefully first, and then apply the liquid with a woolen cloth, going over every spot. This should be done with care, using especial diligence with the soiled spots. After sponging, rinse in ammonia water, and before the garment is thoroughly dried, press it between two dark cloths.

When the washing of an article in soap and water is out of the question, sponging with some substance that will remove grease and other stains is the next best thing. A cleaning fluid which has been used upon silk and woolen fabrics with satisfactory results is made as follows: Put into a large saucepan two quarts of water, half an ounce of borax, and four ounces of white castile soap shaved fine, and stir frequently until the soap and borax are dissolved; then take from the fire and add two quarts of cold water. When the mixture is cold, add one ounce of glycerine. Bottle and put away for use; it will keep for years. To clean an article, first brush thoroughly, and then spread on a table. Sponge with the cleaning fluid and rub hard until the stains disappear. Spots can be removed from carpets in this manner.

Home-made Skirt-Hanger.—Hem a piece of strong cotton cloth about eighteen inches square. Take a piece of plank about two inches wide, and of the same length as the cloth. Fold the cloth once, put a double row of stitching far enough from the crease to permit the stick to be run into the case thus formed and sew on stout loops by which to hang it up. Two loose flaps are left hanging about six or seven inches below the stick. Upon these flaps a number of skirts may be hung by pinning them by the waistband.

REMOVING GREASE SPOTS FROM CLOTH

Soap that Will Remove Grease Spots from Cloth.—Take of powdered fuller's earth one ounce, moisten with spirits of turpentine, add best potash two ounces, and work the whole into a paste with a little soap.

In removing stains or grease spots from delicate colored materials, the cleaning mixture should be applied in a circle around the spot and should be worked toward the center. Then sponge the place with a clean flannel and rub until dry.

A grease eradicator is one of the articles that every housewife likes to have around. Here is one which is said to have made the fortune of one man before the secret was given to the world: Two ounces of ammonia, one ounce of castile soap shavings, one quart of salt water, one teaspoonful of saltpeter.

A mixture for removing grease spots, particularly from men's clothing, is composed of four parts alcohol to one part ammonia and about half as much ether as ammonia. Apply the liquid to the spots and then rub diligently with a sponge and clear water. The alcohol and ether dissolve the grease, and the ammonia forms a lather of it, which is washed out with the water.

Never put away for the summer a woolen garment of any kind that is spotted with grease or soiled with mud. Grease is astonishingly attractive to moths, and all the unbrushed clothes "age" rapidly. Ammonia for all-black goods, and a delicate mixture of ether, ammonia and castile soap for colored ones, may be advised.

Candle grease is hard to remove, but the stains can be taken out by holding a red-hot poker over the mark, not close enough to scorch it, and placing a piece of blotting paper underneath it to absorb the wax as it melts. When the material is not very delicate put a piece of blotting paper over the spot and iron it until all the grease is out. A few seconds will suffice. Then rub the spot with some tissue paper.

To Remove Resin, Tar, Axle Grease or Similar Stains.—Wet the cloth, apply fat or any common oil to stain and thoroughly soap it; allow the soap to remain for a short time, then wash alternately with turpentine and warm water. If this will not remove the stain, cover the stain with a mixture of oil of turpentine and the white of egg, and let it stand for some time until it softens up. Then wash with hot soapy water, and rinse.

Grease Spots.—There are several effectual means of taking out grease spots. Chloroform will do it. Or you can wet the place with ammonia-water; then lay white soft paper over it and iron with a hot iron. Or rub French chalk on the wrong side; let it remain a day; split a visiting card, lay the rough side on the spot, and pass a warm iron lightly over. Or try the old-fashioned "grease-balls"—a stiff paste made of fuller's earth and vinegar, moulded into balls and dried; wet the spot; scrape the ball over it; let it dry, and then wash it off with tepid water.

Oil stains may be removed from paper by applying pipe clay powdered and mixed with water to the thickness of cream; leave on for four hours.

TO REMOVE RUST, PAINT AND INK STAINS

To Remove Iron-rust from Linen.—If the ground be white, oxalic acid, employed in the form of a concentrated aqueous solution, will effectually remove fresh iron-stains.

If iron-rust spots are covered with cream of tartar and salt, slightly moistened, and laid in the sun, they will disappear.

Stains of rust may be removed from fine linen and similar fabrics without injury to the material. The articles must be first well soaped, as if they were to be washed in the ordinary way. An iron is heated, and on this is laid a wet cloth. When the heat makes the cloth steam the rust stain is laid on it, and a little oxalic acid is rubbed on with the finger. The heat and the moisture hasten the effect of the acid on the rust, and when this has disappeared the soaping and washing may be continued.

Or, soak the spots in a solution of 1 part of ferrocyanide of potassium in 500 parts of water, and 1 part of concentrated sulphuric acid, wash well with soft water, and finally remove the blue stains with a solution of caustic potash.

Wine stains of any kind can be removed effectually from linen, by holding them for a few minutes in boiling sweet milk. This must be done before the linen is washed, or it is of no use.

Wine stains may be removed from linen by rubbing it on both sides with yellow soap, then laying on a thick paste of starch and water. Rub in well and expose to the sun and air.

To remove paint spots from clothing saturate the fabric with equal parts of turpentine and water of ammonia.

Paint stains that are dry and old may be removed from cotton or woolen goods with chloroform. First cover the spot with olive oil or butter.

To Remove Paint from Muslin.—Soak the spots in a strong solution of soda and water for twenty-four hours. At the end of this time the paint will often have disappeared, but if it has not, wet the material in turpentine and lay in the sun for several hours. Wet again and repeat this until every trace of the paint is removed.

Ink stains are so frequent that everyone at times desires something to remove them. To remove them from linen rub the spots while wet (if stains are old wet with water) with tartaric acid; to remove them from silk, saturate the spot with spirits of turpentine; after a few hours rub the spot, and the ink stain will crumble away without injuring the fabric.

To remove ink stains from linen, wet the finger in water, then dip into a powder consisting of finely-powdered oxalic acid, and rub it on the spot gently, keeping it rather moist, and the stain will disappear without injuring the fabric. After the stain disappears, wash the linen in pure water. The acid is poisonous.

Spots made by rust and some kinds of ink may be removed from woollens by applying citric acid. This acid can not be used on some colors without changing them to a very ugly shade, so it is well to try what effect it has on the color of the goods to be cleaned, by putting some on a waste bit before attacking the spot.

Chloride of lime can be converted into a capital ink eraser, and will not damage the paper. Put a drachm of citric acid in a wineglass with a teaspoonful of chloride of lime, then nearly fill the glass with water and effervescence will ensue. Roll some soft linen around the finger, dip it in the solution, touch the ink spots with gentle friction, and they will disappear.

Red Ink Stains.—Most aniline stains can readily be removed with alcohol. If the ink is made from cochineal, a weak solution of chloride of lime with a few drops of muriatic acid is sufficient to destroy the color, but it cannot be used on silks and woollens.

Most indelible inks contain nitrate of silver, the stain of which may be removed by first soaking in a solution of common salt and afterwards washing with ammonia. Or use a solution of 10 grains of cyanide of potassium and 5 grains of iodine to 1 ounce of water, or a solution of 8 parts each, of bichloride of mercury and chloride of ammonium in 125 parts of water. According to M. Grimm, chloride of copper completely removes, even from colored woven cotton tissues, stains occasioned by nitrate of silver; the tissue is to be afterwards washed with a solution of hyposulphite of soda and finally with water.

From white cotton and linen fabrics silver stains are more readily removed by applying dilute solution of permanganate of potassium and hydrochloric acid, followed by washing by hyposulphite of soda solution and rinsing in plenty of fresh water. By this means the use of the highly poisonous cyanide of potassium is rendered unnecessary.

CLEANING AND IMPROVING SILKS AND VELVETS

Never use a brush to silk—it injures the goods. **Instead**, wipe carefully with the face of a soft piece of velvet.

Gloss can be removed from black silk by sponging it with cold coffee and ammonia. A teaspoonful of ammonia to a cup of coffee.

Tar is removed from silk by rubbing lard on the stain, and then washing in warm soapsuds.

To take wax spots from black silk, scrape off all the wax possible, wet the goods with alcohol and dry with a soft rag.

Wax is removed from silk by scraping off the wax and applying a paste of French chalk and water, or the silk is laid on blotting paper, another piece of blotting paper on the silk, and then press with a hot iron.

To remove paint from silk goods saturate the goods with equal parts of turpentine and ammonia, then wash in soapsuds and let dry between blotting paper under a heavy weight.

Chloroform is useful for taking paint stains from black silks. Persistent rubbing is necessary. Chloroform will also restore faded plush goods by sponging carefully.

To remove a grease spot from woolen or silk, thoroughly saturate the place with turpentine, and place a soft blotting paper beneath and another on top of the spot, and press very hard. The fat is dissolved, then absorbed by the paper and entirely removed from the cloth.

Black silk can be made to look almost as good as new by sponging on the right side with weak tea or coffee, and pressing on the right side, with a thick flannel between the silk and the iron.

When silk is very much wrinkled, sponge on the wrong side with weak gum-arabic water, and, when nearly dry, iron between two woolen cloths.

Black silk or satin which has become shiny may be cleaned in the following way: Take clean potato peelings, cover them with water, and allow them to soak twenty-four hours. Then steam them, and well sponge the material with the water. Lay the material between clean cloths, and iron on the wrong side until it is quite dry.

By adding a little pearlash to a soap-lather, faded ribbons placed therein will be restored to their natural color. Faded breadths of silk can be restored if treated to a bath of the above named ingredients.

White china silk waists usually grow so yellow after a few washings with soap that they are frequently discarded while still good. It is economical to wash them in the following way: To a quart and a half of warm, soft water, add a tablespoonful of powdered borax. Wash gently, rubbing lightly all soiled spots with the hands. Wring out and wash again in the same quantity of water, similarly prepared; wring, and rinse in clear water, to which half a tablespoonful of borax has been added. Press until nearly dry, but do not use too warm an iron.

Velvet is cleaned after being dusted, and rubbed with gasoline, by allowing steam to penetrate through the fabric while brushing with a whisk broom, or brush, in the direction of the nap. Velvet ribbons are drawn across a wet cloth which has been laid over the bottom of a hot flatiron. Chloroform brushed over velvet revives it if applied with a soft cloth.

CLEANING AND MENDING LACE

The great point about washing lace is to do it gently, never rubbing soap on to the surface nor using strong soap. A lather may be made, either with soap jelly or a very mild washing powder; or it may be washed in borax water, hot but not boiling. If the lace is very dirty it can be steeped first in cold water.

Take a piece of an old lace curtain a little larger than the hole you want to mend. Wash and starch it, and while still wet lay it on the curtain and press a hot iron on it until dry.

To do up lace curtains without stretchers, wash and starch without much rubbing or wringing and hang lengthwise on the line. Place opposite scallops together and pull the whole curtain straight. The starch will stick the opposite halves together, no pins being needed. The curtains will be straight and even and no ironing will be necessary—only a pressing of the scallops.

Directions for Washing Lace Curtains.—Never give them hard rubbing. Always soak and sop out as much of the dirt as possible.

Never starch fine lace curtains very stiff. The coarser the curtains the more starch they will require. Add borax to the starch to help hold the stiffening. Coffee, tea or saffron may be added to the starch for ecru curtains, if their dark color is desirable.

Always shake the dust from curtains before washing. Always squeeze the water from curtains when changing them from one water to another. Wash very old or fine curtains in a pillow case or other muslin bag. Measure the curtains before washing.

Curtain Stretching.—Get common grocery string, using it doubled, and after having cut off a doubled thread the exact length of your curtain, measuring the lace edge only, with a bodkin or small safety pin draw the string through the narrow hem lengthwise of the curtain, fastening securely each end of the string. Do this to each curtain. If done right you will have a perfectly straight edge after stretching and the strings never show.

Bobbinet Curtains.—Cut pieces of muslin four inches wide and sew flat on edges of curtains before they are laundered, using a long, loose stitch on the machine. Then wash and starch as usual and pin evenly on carpeted floor. When dry the muslin is easily ripped off, and in this way you avoid the full, uneven edge which is so often seen in bobbinet curtains.

Never iron lace window curtains, and be careful not to make them too blue with indigo or too stiff with starch.

Stretch them upon a mattress to dry, pinning down carefully the extreme edge of every point or scallop.

Woolen lace should be rinsed in water of exactly the same temperature as that in which it is washed. Black lace needs vinegar in the rinsing water.

Make a thick paste of talcum powder and water, spread this thickly over the lace, putting it down into the meshes. Let it dry thoroughly, and then shake and brush the powder out and the dirt goes with it.

One does not usually starch lace, for ironing it while wet imparts a certain stiffness. If, however, it is needed very stiff, it can be dipped in either hot water starch or cold water starch.

It is ironed while wet with a good hot iron. At first, until it is almost dry, put a piece of clean rag or a stout handkerchief between the iron and the lace, then iron it dry without. The lace should be pulled out gently with the fingers, especially the outermost edge, before ironing.

There are some kinds of lace that have a raised surface and which are better ironed between blankets, or not ironed at all. These should be stretched, while still wet, with a pin at each point, or at distances of an inch or less apart. They may be stretched on a large sheet of clean cardboard.

Another way of pressing lace with a raised surface, is to wind it around a bottle filled with hot water, which dries and presses it on the wrong side at the same time.

When washing a lace door-panel, try the following plan: Wash the glass in the door and leave it ready to replace the panel. Carefully wash and starch the lace, slip in the rods while wet and place in position. Pull the lace straight and it will dry on the door and look like new.

Rusty black lace can be wonderfully freshened up by rinsing it in water to which have been added borax and alcohol in the proportion of one tablespoonful each of borax and alcohol to one cupful of soft water. After the lace is partly dry, dip it in water in which an old kid glove has been boiled, squeeze gently, pull out the edges, pin on sheets of blotting paper, and dry under heavy books.

To clean white ostrich feathers, cut some pure white soap into small pieces and pour boiling water on them and add a little mite of soda. When the soap is dissolved and the water cool enough, dip the feathers in and draw them through the hand. Do this several times until the lather is dirty: then make a clean lather and repeat the operation. Afterward rinse the feathers in cold water, slightly blued. Pat the feathers between the hands and shake them over the fire until they are perfectly dry. Curl them by drawing each fibre between the thumb and the dull edge of a silver knife.

To Clean White Plumes.—Lay the soiled plume on a large plate and pour over it about three tablespoonfuls of gasoline; then with a clean tooth-brush brush thoroughly, working from the stem to the tip. Press out with the fingers any extra liquid remaining in the plume, and shake in the open air until dry. If the plume is very much soiled it may be necessary to repeat the process, using fresh gasoline. Never work with gasoline in a room where there is any fire.

Common starch mixed with cold water and painted on the feathers, allowing them to dry, and then carefully shaking out or gently beating, is an excellent method of cleaning.

To curl feathers after the curl has come out of them by washing the feather or getting it damp, place a hot flatiron so that you can hold the feather just above it while curling. Take a bone or silver knife, and draw the fibres of the feather between the thumb and the dull edge of the knife, taking not more than three fibres at a time, beginning at the point of the feather and curling one-half the other way. The hot iron makes the curl more durable.

Never fold a gossamer waterproof inside out; it is the inside which should be kept free from soil of any kind. If you think this is superfluous advice, please observe the manner in which most of your acquaintances fold them.

A Good Rubber Cement.—Dissolve gutta percha in bisulphide of carbon; shave off the edges of the leather, and pour on the cement; allow to evaporate to dryness. Then put the two faces together, previously heating thoroughly, and press until cool.

To Mend Rubbers.—When rubbers begin to wear or crack, they can be repaired by the use of a solution made from equal parts of demar varnish and asphaltum, to which a little turpentine has been added. The worn or cracked places should be painted with the mixture and then allowed to dry slowly away from the fire.

If a tiny tear appears on the instep of the rubber, sew on the underside a piece of wide black elastic, or it can be temporarily mended with black court plaster.

To clean a mackintosh, scrub both sides with soap and water, then rinse away all the soap. Dry by hanging up without wringing. Alcohol, benzine, chloroform, gasoline, turpentine, or other cloth cleaning chemicals should never be used, as they dissolve, or injure, the rubber in waterproof garments. Ammonia may be applied freely to remove grease stains.

Cut pieces about two inches wide and three long from the heels of old rubbers, peel off the cloth, and sew them inside the heels of your rubbers. They are rough and sticky, and will cling fast to the shoe and entirely stop that disagreeable trait some rubbers have of slipping off at the heel.

When pressing woollen goods spread a newspaper over the material instead of a cloth, and there will be no bother with brushing off the troublesome lint.

To Save Underwear.—Knit underwear often splits at the seams while the garment is still good. To prevent this, sew the seams on the machine before wearing, sewing on the original stitching on each side of the seam.

To mend neatly a very large hole in fine woven underwear, baste a piece of netting over the opening and darn over it. When finished cut close the edges of net uncovered. Thus mended, the garment will be stronger than when new and look far neater than if darned in the ordinary way.

Strengthening a Silk Petticoat.—Baste a piece of thin muslin about twelve inches wide on the wrong side all the way around. Sew in with rather large stitches, though firmly enough to hold well. If stitched or sewed too tightly, it might start breaks in the silk.

Mending Frayed Skirts.—With sharp scissors cut through the worn edge of the skirt. Holding the wrong side toward you, cut three-eighths of an inch from the hem. Turn the right side of the skirt, which is now three-eighths of an inch longer than the wrong side, up over the lower edge. Baste in a tiny hem, and sew by hand with small stitches, being careful not to catch the thread through to the right side. A skirt-braid may be sewed on to protect the bottom of the skirt from further wear and conceal the tiny hem.

CARE OF MAN'S WARDROBE

Stains may be removed from the collar of an overcoat by rubbing it with a cloth dipped in ammonia.

Clean dirty coat collars with gasoline. Stay away from the fire while doing it.

Trousers should always be placed on a holder and hung suspended from their bottoms.

In brushing a coat do not neglect the inside, especially around the collar.

In folding trousers, hold them at the waist and fold by putting together the first suspender button on each side. This insures a straight line of the crease. Then double them over at the knee.

It is well in brushing a derby hat not to use a whisk broom. It scars the fur and leaves a streak. Always use a soft bristle brush, taking care to rub with the grain. For cleaning a silk hat, use a velvet pad.

When a silk hat becomes wet, rub the way the nap lies with a clean linen cloth, or silk handkerchief, and hang some distance from the fire to dry. A few hours after brush with a soft brush.

In placing a coat on a hanger, the loop should be placed around the hook. This in itself will balance a coat on the frame. Do not button the coat, as this tends to make the coat wrinkle in front at the shoulders. Hang the waistcoat under the coat.

To fold a coat for packing or for traveling, lay it out flat outside up. Turn up the collar, pull sleeves out straight and flatten them; fold over the two sides of the coat so the sleeves are just covered. Then fold in half.

To Remove the Soiled, Stained Look from a White Straw Hat.—Brush the hat thoroughly, then add a little ammonia to some water and scrub with a brush rubbed in castile soap. If any stains resist this treatment apply a little lemon juice and two cents' worth of powdered yellow sulphur. Rub this mixture into the straw and then remove it with a damp cloth.