

1. Blot up spills immediately. It is important to remove as much of the excess material as quickly as possible. Using a clean, white towel (the non-decorated side of a paper towel will do) press down on the stain, working from the outside of the spill to the middle. **Blot, don't rub, scrub or brush** because rough treatment will damage the fibers. Remove any solids with a plastic spoon or credit card.

3. Pre-test any spotting solution in an inconspicuous area. Test both home-made and commercial cleaning formulas on an unseen place, like the back of your rug. If dye from your rug comes off, or if the rug changes color in that area, you should NOT use this solution. **WARNING:** using the improper cleaning solutions can set spots and cause discoloration that may not be visible until the rug is thoroughly cleaned and rinsed.

4. Don't over-wet. Use small amounts of liquids. Over-wetting can cause the stain to spread.

5. Less is More. Use cleaning solutions sparingly. Excessive use of strong chemicals can damage your rug and compound the problem.

6. Use patience. Some spots respond very slowly. It's better to take a little time when treating a spot than have to look at bad results for years.

7. Rinse out any chemicals. If you used a cleaning solution, be sure to blot it up and follow up by blotting with a damp cloth. Leaving soap in your rug can cause the spot to reappear due to rapid resoiling.

8. DRY THE SPOT THOROUGHLY.. Prolonged moisture can cause mildew and damage to your rug. Check back after a half day to make sure that the area is dry. If not, place a fan blowing directly on the spot until dry. If the rug has not dried in two days, consult your ARCS cleaner.

9. When in doubt, contact your local ARCS member for assistance. If a spot does not respond to your treatment, contact our professionals for their expert advice.

SPOTTING GUIDE

Use each of the cleaning agents on the spot or spill in the order indicated until the spot fails to improve. Apply small amounts of the cleaning solution with a clean, white absorbent towel. Blot frequently and continue to apply and blot until the material is no longer transferred to the towel. The final step is to blot up any remaining moisture by pressing or padding the area with an absorbent towel and weighting it down. Allow several hours to completely dry.

1. Apply a small amount of cold water and blot with a dry towel
2. Mix 1/2 teaspoonful of dishwashing detergent (that does NOT contain bleaches or disinfectants) with a cup of cold water. DO NOT use laundry detergents or spotters.
3. Mix 1/3 cup of white distilled vinegar with 2/3 cup cold water.
4. Apply a small amount of clear rubbing alcohol . Use in very small amounts to avoid damage to your rug. **THIS IS NOT ADVISABLE ON LATEX BACKED OR TUFTED RUGS. Be sure of proper ventilation before using any volatile solvents, like rubbing alcohol.**
5. Consult your **ARCS** cleaner

NOTE: NEVER USE BLEACH ON YOUR RUG AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE FIBERS.

Disclaimer: These are best practices, but are NOT applicable for every situation. The END USER IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE for determining their suitability for their situation and the consequences of their use. The authors, ARCS and ARCS member firms cannot be held responsible for their application and any errors or omissions.

MATERIAL	REMOVAL METHOD
Beer	1,2,3,6
Blood	1,2,3,5
Butter	1,2,5
Candle Wax	4,5
Chewing Gum	4,2,5
Chocolate	2,3,5
Cocktails	1,2,3,5
Coffee / Tea	1,2,3,5
Cosmetics	5,4,2,5
Crayons	4,2,5
Egg	1,2,,5
Food Coloring	5
Fruit Juices	1,2,3,5
Furniture Polish	2,4,3,5
Furniture Stain	4,5,
Glue,(Elmer's)	2,4,5
Glue (Carpenter's)	2,4,5
Glue (Contact Cement)	4,5
Grease	2,4,3,5
Ice Cream	1,2,3,5
Ink	4,2,5
Ketchup	1,2,3,5
Milk	1,2,3,5
Mustard	2,3,5
Nail Polish	4,5
Oils	2,3,4,5
Ointments	2,3,4,5
Paint (latex)	1,4,5
Soft Drinks	1,2,3,5
Tar / Asphalt	4,5
Urine	1,2,3,5
Vomit	1,2,3,5
Wine	1,2,3,5

How to Use This Guide

What is the difference between a spot and a stain? Aren't they the same?

A spot is foreign matter added to the surface of a textile that can be removed using standard cleaning methods. Spots by definition are removable. A stain is a permanent discoloration that cannot be removed by cleaning. *Spots, if treated improperly, are more likely to become permanent stains.*

The best method to safely remove spots from your rug is to have it professionally cleaned by an **ARCS** member, who has special equipment and training in the proper method to clean your rugs. Understanding that this is not always practical, this spotting guide will assist you in removing small, everyday household spills while minimizing the risk of permanent damage to your rug.

Most over-the-counter spotters are designed as a one-size fits-all solution and are inappropriate to use on many rugs. They contain concentrations of soaps, enzymes and bleaches that can set what could have been a removable spot and, in some cases, cause additional discoloration of your rug. Therefore, we **DO NOT** recommend using multi-purpose over-the-counter spotters on your rug. If you would like to purchase a spotter, please consult your local **ARCS** member for their recommendation.

Finally, the longer a spill remains on your rug the more likely it is to stain, so the best time to attempt to remove any spills is immediately after they occur.

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SPOTTING TIPS



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