

How to treat stains

Our ultimate guide to dealing with laundry stains.

By Brett Walther and Robin Stevenson

1. Blood

Soak fresh stains in cold water (warm water will set the protein), then launder. For set-in stains, pretreat or presoak in an enzyme-based stain-removal product, then launder.

2. Red wine

Pour cold water through the back of the stain and blot with clean cloth. Next, sprinkle the stain with table salt, let sit for three minutes, then rinse again with cold water. Finally, pretreat with stain remover, then launder.

3. Grass

Work liquid **laundry** detergent into the stain, then launder. If the stain remains, apply an enzyme-based stain remover, then launder.

4. Ink

Place the stain facedown on a paper towel and dab the back of the stain with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol, replacing the paper towel frequently. Rinse thoroughly with cold water, then **laundry** again.

Help! I've already laundered with a shirt with a stain!

Don't panic. "If you find a stain after it has gone through the dryer, all it means is that it will be tougher to remove," says **stain-removal** expert Michael Vercelletto of OxiClean. "You'll want to pretreat it with a stain remover and give it a long presoak."

If a stain just won't come out, don't fight it. Instead, hide it:

1. Tie-dye cotton T-shirts.
2. Apply a colourful iron-on patch.
3. Upcycle pants with stained knees by cutting the fabric just above the stain. Voilà: shorts!

Choose a detergent or stain remover:



Tide HE Turbo

Available this month! This low-sudsing detergent is designed to rinse cleanly in a single cycle. *Tide HE Turbo*, tide.ca.

The Laundress Stain Solution

Recommended for all types of stains, from chocolate to coffee. Apply directly, then launder as normal. \$22, well.ca and amazon.ca.

OxiClean MaxForce White Revive

Soaking with this chlorine bleach-free stain remover revives dingy whites. \$11, oxiclean.ca.

J.R. Watkins Castile Soap

Rub this scented soap along shirt collars to remove tough stains. \$6 each, jrwatkins.com.

Solve your washer and dryer problems with these **problem-solving appliances**.



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