

ABOUT THIS FIRST AID KIT

If you have carpet, you likely have or have had, carpet stains. No matter how old or new your carpet, at some point you may have a challenging stain such as blood, coffee, or pet stains that you must deal with.

Naturally, it is always best to treat the stain as soon as possible after it happens, but we know sometimes that is just not possible. Another important factor is HOW you treat the stain. What you use and how you use it also determines how well the stain will come out of your carpet.

Tough Stains - Professional Tips - Common Agents

This guide tells you how to treat seven of the toughest carpet stains to not only completely remove them, but make sure the carpet doesn't attract stains later.

The professional carpet stain removal tips included here are tried and true methods used by the pros for removing the most challenging stains you may encounter. Following the procedures listed here, you can rest easy that the stain will be gone in no time, and won't come back.

You may also notice several household agents in these tips that can be used for nearly all stains, while some are best for specific types of stains. Tips may include multiple cleaning options where practical.

Complete Stain Removal Takes Time

It is important to remember that in most cases, complete stain removal is not a quick process. Even when using professional tips. Be Patient! For each of the stains listed in this First Aid Kit, it will probably take multiple times of 'lifting' the stain out of the carpet for it to be completely gone.

Once you get the stain out, it is equally important to remember this final step - always rinse the stain area with clear water (applied with a spray bottle) to remove any soap residue. Soap residue can attract dirt and if you skip this step, you might find a stain reappearing in the same spot a few months later.

Art's Furniture & Carpet offers you this carpet stain removal guide to arm you with the care and maintenance knowledge so that you can enjoy your carpet investment for many years to come. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

Disclaimer: The tips you find in this carpet stain removal guide are industry best practices for cleaning the stains listed and are provided in good faith. This First Aid Kit for Carpet Stains is provided for informational purposes only, and while every effort has been made to ensure that the content is accurate, no warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, is given regarding the results obtained from following this information. Under no circumstances shall we have any liability to you for any loss or damage of any kind incurred as a result of applying the information in this document.

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FIRST AID KIT SUPPLIES



Always Test!

These household cleaning agents should be relatively harmless to carpet.

But always test the cleaning solution you are using in an inconspicuous place first to make sure it will not damage or discolor your carpet.

Testing in a closet, along a wall, or on a carpet remnant are preferred options.

It never fails that stains happen at an inconvenient time, and having the right supplies on hand to quickly get it out can have a big impact on your carpet stain removal success.

Here is a list of household agents that will be referred to in the following professional tips for removing tough carpet stains. Use this as your shopping list so that you always have the supplies on hand when a stain happens.

- **White cloth towels or paper towels** – no colors or dyes to transfer to the stain area, plus you can see how much stain is coming out.
- **White vinegar** – as an acidic product, it is good for neutralizing alkaline stains. It is also a natural deodorizer. It could be used on these stains: blood, grease, mud, pet urine.
- **White shaving cream** – the old fashioned kind, with no scents, gels or moisturizers that could stain. Shaving creams in general are very alkaline, so would work well for neutralizing acidic stains. It could be used on these stains: blood, coffee, ink (ball point), Kool-Aid, mud, pet urine.
- **Grease fighting dishwashing liquid** - Dawn Blue or similar.
- **Stain fighting laundry detergent** – a clear formula is best since there are no dyes to transfer to the carpet.
- **Hydrogen peroxide (3%)** - from the drug store or grocery store. Peroxide quickly breaks down to oxygen and water in light. It is used as an oxidizer and has a slight bleaching action.
- **Isopropyl alcohol (aka rubbing alcohol)** - 70% is recommended, or the highest percent you can find.
- **Spray bottle** – 1 cup to quart capacity.
- **Dull knife** – to scrape off excess stain-causer that may be sitting on top of carpet.
- **Iron** – steam setting is convenient, but not necessary.

BLOOD STAINS



Supplies Needed

- White paper towels or cloth towels
- Dishwashing liquid
- Cold water
- Spray bottle
- 3% Hydrogen Peroxide

Always use cold water when working with blood stains. This stain removal tip involves using hydrogen peroxide on the carpet. Hydrogen peroxide has a slight bleaching action. Always test on an out of the way spot on the carpet before using on the stain.

There are several options for getting blood out of carpet.

1. Blot first with a clean, dry paper towel or cloth towel to get as much of the blood out of the carpet as possible. Remember, blotting lifts the stain out of the carpet fibers and onto the cloth.
2. If the blood is dried, mix a solution of 1-2 drops of dishwashing liquid in 1 cup cold water in a spray bottle. Spray the cleaning solution on a clean, white towel and blot the blood to loosen it. Don't saturate the carpet as this will allow the blood to seep deeper into the carpet. If the blood stain is fresh, you can skip this step.
3. Apply a small amount of 3% hydrogen peroxide (undiluted, or mixed 50:50 with cold water) directly to the stain. You should notice it immediately beginning to foam when it comes in contact with the blood. Don't worry! It's supposed to do that. Wait a few minutes.
4. Blot the stain with a dry white towel until you get it all out. Make sure to always use a clean spot on the towel so you don't transfer the stain back to the carpet.
5. Repeat steps 3-4 as needed if the stain isn't completely gone.
6. Rinse the stain area with clear water, especially if you used the dishwashing liquid cleaning solution. Soap residue can attract dirt causing the stain to reappear. Use a spray bottle to apply the water and blot the carpet to remove as much excess moisture as possible.
7. Cover with paper towels and let air dry.

FOR REALLY STUBBORN STAINS

Stubborn or old stains can be difficult to deal with. If you've tried these remedies or others in the past and still have stubborn stains, here are a few options you can try.

Shaving Cream – Old fashioned, white shaving cream has been known to remove practically every kind of stain.

1. Dampen the stain area with a white cloth towel to treat (if it is dry).
2. Spray a little shaving cream on the damp stain and lightly rub it over and into the stained area with your fingers.
3. Wait about 15 minutes, or until it's dry.
4. Dampen a white towel with water and blot the shaving cream out, moving to a clean area of the towel as needed.
5. Blot out any excess water with a dry towel, cover it with dry paper towel(s) and a heavy book (to wick up moisture) and let air dry completely.

Iron – Yep, that's right! The same iron you use for your clothes can also be used for spot steam cleaning your carpet. A steam setting on your iron isn't necessary for this stain removal option.

1. Mix ½ teaspoon mild dishwashing liquid into 1 cup warm water.
2. Liberally dampen the stain area with a white cloth towel. Don't pour it on the stain or otherwise saturate the stain. That will drive the stain deeper into the fibers and possibly the carpet backing.
3. Soak a clean white towel with plain water and wring it out just so that it doesn't drip water. Lay over the stain so that it completely covers the stain area.
4. Set the iron to medium heat (with or without steam). The damp towel and carpet will create steam, so it's not necessary to have the iron on a high setting. In fact, a high heat setting should be avoided since it may burn or melt the carpet fibers, depending on the material.
5. Iron the damp towel, moving the iron over the stain. Don't stay in one place longer than about 15 seconds.
6. Check to see if the stain is still visible.
7. Repeat steps 2-5 as needed until the stain has fully transferred to the towel.
8. Rinse stain area with water (apply with a spray bottle) to remove any soap residue. Soap residue can attract dirt.
9. Blot out excess water with a dry towel, cover it with dry paper towel(s) and a heavy book (to wick up moisture) and let air dry completely.



Supplies Needed

- White paper towels or cloth towels
- White shaving cream
- Water
- Iron - preheated to medium setting
- Mild dishwashing liquid

NEED MORE HELP?



Ask Art's

Cleaning Solution the Pro's Use

If you don't want to mix up your own stain removal cleaning solution, you can use **Folex Instant Carpet Spot Remover**. It will work on any stain listed in this First Aid Kit for Carpet Stains – plus many more.

Folex is a water-based cleaner that is non-toxic, non-flammable, and odor-free and is CFC and petroleum free. Folex is specially formulated to remove virtually any stain on any colorfast carpet that can safely be dampened with water.

It won't attract dirt back to the treated area, making rinsing unnecessary. It will remove fresh stains and old stains that have not dyed or bleached the carpet fibers.

Art's Furniture & Carpet sells Folex and it's the #1 choice for the flooring installers we work with. When you need another option, this is the one we recommend.

Need New Carpet?

Like we said in the beginning, Art's Furniture & Carpet wants to arm you with the knowledge to enjoy your carpet investment for many years to come.

If after trying these professional tips for removing some of the toughest stains, you find your carpet is worn out, well past its prime or just needs replacing, we invite you to visit our showroom.

Carpet manufacturing has advanced greatly in the last 10 years. Art's carries carpet with features including:

- Lifetime stain, pet, and fade resistance limited warranties.
- Soil, abrasive wear, texture retention and manufacturing defects warranties ranging from 15 years to 25 years.

Come learn about the new features and advances carpet manufacture's offer, and feel carpet samples for yourself.



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