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FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

Stain Removal Cheat Sheet

What to use on 14 common household stains, and what to avoid.

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Stain	What to do
● Red wine	Cold water, then dish soap
● Grease	Bicarb soda, then dish soap
● Blood	Cold water and enzyme cleaner
● Ink	Isopropyl alcohol, dab inward
● Pet urine	Blot, then enzyme cleaner
● Candle wax	Ice, scrape, warm iron

Save it before it sets.

Vetted, insured cleaners across Australia

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Stain Removal Cheat Sheet

What to use on the most common household stains, and what to avoid.

Golden rules

- Act fast. Fresh stains lift far more easily.
- Blot, don't rub. Rubbing spreads the stain and damages fibres.
- Work from the outside in to stop it spreading.
- Start with cold water. Heat can set protein stains.
- Test on a hidden spot first.
- Never mix cleaning products.

Stain	What to do	Avoid
Red wine	Blot, flush with cold water, then dab with a little dish soap in water. Rinse and blot dry.	✗ Hot water, salt on carpet, rubbing
Coffee and tea	Blot, rinse with cold water, then treat with mild detergent. For carpet, follow with a white vinegar and water solution.	✗ Hot water on milky coffee
Grease and oil	Cover with bicarb soda or cornflour to absorb, brush off, then work in dish soap and rinse with warm water.	✗ Water before absorbing
Blood	Rinse with cold water straight away, then use an enzyme cleaner.	✗ Hot water, heat drying
Ink	Dab with isopropyl alcohol on a white cloth, working from the edge in. Rinse.	✗ Rubbing, hairspray on fabric
Mud	Let it dry completely, vacuum or brush off, then treat the mark with detergent.	✗ Scrubbing while wet
Chocolate	Scrape off the excess, rinse from the back with cold water, then use an enzyme cleaner.	✗ Hot water
Makeup	Use dish soap for oily foundation, or isopropyl alcohol for long-wear formulas. Rinse.	✗ Rubbing into fibres
Pet urine	Blot up as much as possible, then saturate with an enzyme cleaner and let it dwell.	✗ Ammonia-based cleaners
Chewing gum	Harden with an ice pack, then scrape or pick it off.	✗ Pulling while soft
Candle wax	Harden with ice and scrape. Place brown paper over the rest and lift with a warm iron.	✗ Scraping while soft
Sweat and deodorant	Soak in cool water with an enzyme detergent, or apply a bicarb soda paste, then wash.	✗ Hot dryer before it's gone

Stain	What to do	Avoid
Rust (hard surfaces)	Apply lemon juice with salt, or a rust remover suited to the surface. Rinse well.	✗ Acids on stone or marble
Mould (hard surfaces)	Spray with white vinegar or a mould remover, leave 30 minutes, scrub and dry. Ventilate.	✗ Mixing bleach with other cleaners

● Your stain kit

8 items

- ☐ Microfibre and white cotton cloths
- ☐ Dish soap
- ☐ Enzyme stain remover
- ☐ White vinegar
- ☐ Bicarb soda
- ☐ Isopropyl alcohol
- ☐ Spray bottle and soft brush
- ☐ Ice pack or ice cubes

● When to call a professional

- ☐ Large or old carpet stains
- ☐ Silk, wool and delicate fabrics
- ☐ Dry clean only items
- ☐ Stains that reappear once dry
- ☐ Mould that keeps coming back
- ☐ Carpets before a bond inspection

Short on time? Let the professionals handle it.

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