

Spot Solver

For treating stubborn spots and stains, CRI recommends using Seal of Approval carpet cleaning products. When you don't have an approved product on hand, here are some useful tips:

- Blood should be rinsed quickly with cool water. Follow with a mix of 1/4 teaspoon clear (nonbleach, nonlanolin) dishwashing liquid with one cup of cool water. Blot and dry quickly.
- Dye (medicines, cosmetics, etc.) and food stains (soda, coffee, tea, juice, ketchup, etc.) First blot with a clean white cloth to absorb as much as the stain as possible. Then, try the liquid dishwashing solution described above. Blot, repeat and rinse with clear water on a clean, white towel or a white paper towel. Dry. Depending on the substance, professional cleaning may be required.
- Fingernail polish can be removed using a nonacetone fingernail polish remover. Apply a small amount of remover on a white cloth and work it in from the edges of the spill to the center. Blot the area using lukewarm tap water. Dry with a clean cloth.
- Ink (ballpoint pen) comes off with rubbing alcohol (70 percent isopropyl) applied to a cloth or paper towel. Don't pour rubbing alcohol directly on the spot.
- Paint (latex) responds to the detergent solution described above for blood. Blot, repeat, and dry.
- Urine or vomit, left unattended, can damage carpet in several ways. Always clean these up immediately with paper towels.
- For pet urine, try a solution of one part white vinegar and one part water.
- Rust nearly always requires professional services because of the chemicals involved.
- Wax (paraffin from candles) responds best when medium heat from an iron is applied to a clean white cloth or paper towel and blotted on. Repeat the heat application to the towel as the wax is absorbed. Sometimes dyes in wax won't come out, and fibers will have to be cut and the area replaced with a new carpet insert. A trained professional can assist here; www.certifiedcleaners.org.
- Wine comes out with the very same dishwashing detergent solution described above for blood. Blot, repeat and dry. Call a professional if the stain persists.