

## Follow these guidelines carefully to remove the General Food Stains spill:

### READ THIS FIRST!

**Act Quickly!** Most fabrics and rugs available today have been treated with a [stain resistant method](#), therefore, most spills can be removed if immediate action is taken. The longer the delay, the higher the probability of your spill becoming a permanent stain. Remember, staining is influenced by many factors. No stain-resistant treated carpet, rug or fabric is completely stain proof. If the spot can be identified, locate the substance on this spot removal guide and **follow the directions carefully**.

**Blot liquids** with a dry, white absorbent cloth or white (no printing) paper towels. Gently scrape up semi-solids with a rounded spoon, breaking up the solids and then vacuum.

**DO NOT scrub the area!** Scrubbing can cause pile distortion in the affected area. Continue to use a dry cloth or paper towel until the area is completely dry.

a. **Pretest** any spot removal solution (for color transfer to the cloth or damage to the carpet or fabric) in an inconspicuous area by applying several drops to the testing area. Then hold a white cloth on the wet area for ten seconds. Examine the area and the cloth for color transfer, color change, or damage to the fiber or the dye. If a change occurs, select and pretest another solution.

b. **Apply a small amount** of the solution to a white cloth, and work in gently -- do not rub -- working from the edges of the spill to the center to prevent spreading. Allow it to remain on the spill for a few minutes. Be patient. Then blot.

c. **Continue to use the first agent** as long as there is a transfer of the spill to the cloth. Be patient. Complete removal may require repeating the same step several times. Or, you may need to move to the next solution. It is not necessary to use all of the cleaning solutions if the first solution removes the spill. Once again, be patient.

d. **When the spill is completely removed**, rinse the area with cold water. Blot with a dry cloth until all moisture is removed. Work at the area gently -- do not rub -- working from the edges of the spill to the center to prevent its spreading.

Apply a one-half inch layer of white paper towels to the affected area and weigh them down with a flat, heavy object. Continue to change paper towels as needed. A [dry, absorbent, cleaning compound](#) may be used as a substitute to minimize drying time.

e. **Recurring spots** after a day or two may require a “damp dusting” of the area’s fiber or carpet tips only. This is accomplished with a light application of the appropriate dry cleaning fluid or mild [spot remover](#) to a clean white towel. Lightly dust over the area, careful not to re-saturate and thereby reconstitute what contaminants may still be lurking in the backing or substrate. If the problem persists, and you require service in Orange County, CA and surrounding areas, contact us at [“What A Difference!”](#). Click here if your [property lies outside](#) the “What A Difference!” service area.



**Detergent Solution** - Mix one fourth (1/4) teaspoon of a liquid dishwashing detergent per one (1) cup of lukewarm water. **NEVER USE A STRONGER CONCENTRATION!** Thorough rinsing is necessary to remove any detergent residues that may cause rapid soiling. It may be necessary to rinse with warm water several times to completely remove residues. (See Residue Precautions.) Care should be used in selecting a detergent. **Never use a laundry detergent of any type**, because laundry detergents may contain bleaching agents or optical brighteners (fluorescent dyes) that dye the fiber. Do not select an automatic dishwashing detergent because many contain bleaching agents that destroy dyes and some fibers.



**Ammonia Solution** - Mix two (2) tablespoons of **household** ammonia per cup of water.



**Vinegar Solution** - Mix one (1) cup of distilled **white** vinegar per two (2) cups of water. Distilled white vinegar is a 5% acetic acid solution. It is used most often to lower the alkalinity caused by detergent solutions or alkaline spills.



**Warm Water** - Lukewarm tap water should be used in most cases to rinse the cleaning solutions from the fiber. Failure to completely rinse the solutions from the fiber may cause accelerated soiling.



**Spot Removal Kit** - Available from most carpet retail stores. Follow directions closely! Some spot removal kits contain: (A) a detergent solution and (B) a stain-resist solution. Use of the (B) solution **prior** to the complete removal of the spill may cause a permanent stain. Other spot removal kits may contain a dry extraction cleaning compound that can be used effectively for most common household stains.



**Call a Professional** – Certified fabric care professionals should have the equipment and skill to use more aggressive cleaning solutions to remove stubborn spills and stains. Always consider consulting a professional cleaner regarding any spot removal question. For counsel and service in Orange County, CA and surrounding areas, contact us at [“What A Difference!”](#). Click here if your [property lies outside](#) the “What A Difference!” service area.

## Residue Precautions

Many spot removal solutions leave residues in the carpet or fabric that may attract soil. Thoroughly rinse the area several times with lukewarm tap water. A mist type sprayer is recommended to prevent over-wetting. Blot with paper towels and pat dry after each rinse. Several rinses are often necessary to thoroughly remove residues. Never use any of the solutions in concentrations stronger than those recommended. [“What A Difference!” Ultimate Spot Remover](#), when used in accordance with the easy-to-follow instructions on the back of the bottle, should require no rinsing, as it is residue-free.