

A Guide to Cleaning Nonwoven Fabrics

Article out of the RV Tech magazine. This information was provided to them by Foss Manufacturing and addresses some of the common stains and cleaning remedies.

Through installation procedures, or consumer use, fabrics may become contaminated and require spot cleaning from time-to-time. The following information is provided as a guideline for the care and cleaning of fabrics made from either Polypropylene or Polyester fibers. Because these materials are made from synthetic fibers, they clean very well with virtually no damage to the color or construction itself. Most commercially available Carpet and Upholstery cleaners will do an excellent job removing stains. From time to time, additional cleaning methods may need to be employed to remove stubborn or difficult stains.

General

As with any stain or contamination, the quick response is the best, especially when done in conjunction with the proper cleaner for the type of stain. Important: make sure you have selected the right cleaning agent from the list below before you begin the cleaning process. The categories of stains listed below are based on 1.) stains acquired by consumer/end-user following installation of fabric and 2.) acquired during OEM manufacture.

Type of Stain	Customer/End User Incident	
	Cleaning Agent	How To Remove
Mustard	Dry Clean Solvent	Scrub-Soak-Blot Dry
Ketchup*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-Rinse-Blot Dry
Coffee*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-Rinse-Blot Dry
Chocolate*	Detergent	Scrub-Rinse-Blot Dry
Tea*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-Rinse-Blot Dry
Chewing Gum	Dry Clean Solvent	Scrub-Soak-Blot Dry
Oil	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-Soak-Blot Dry
Grease	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-Soak-Blot Dry
Tar/Asphalt	K-q kerosene/thinner	Scrub-soak-blot dry
Wax	Detergent	Hot iron on detergent-soak towel or cloth
Rust	Rust Remover	Soak-rinse-blot dry
Dirt*	Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry
Lipstick	Dry Clean Solvent	Soak-blot dry
Nail Polish	Dry Clean Solvent	Soak-blot dry
Shoe Polish	Dry Clean Solvent	Soak-blot dry
Crayon	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry

Vomit*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry- deodorize with vinegar
Urine*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry- deodorize with vinegar
Blood*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry- deodorize with vinegar
Excrement*	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry- deodorize with vinegar

OEM Fabrication Incidents

Type of Stain	Cleaning Agent	How To Remove
Oil	High Strength Detergent	Soak-blot-dry
Adhesive (water based)	Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry
Adhesive (solvent based)	Mineral Spirits	Soak-blot-dry
Felt Tip Market (indelible)	Detergent	Soak-rinse-blot dry
Ink	Dry Clean Solvent	Soak-blot-dry
Pencil	Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blotdry
Chalk	Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry
Paint (latex)	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry
Paint (oil base)	Solvents/mineral spirits	Soak-blot dry
Stains	High Strength Detergent	Scrub-rinse-blot dry
Stains	Solvents/mineral spirits	Soak-blot dry
Tar/Asphalt	K-1 kerosene/solvents	Soak-blot dry

NOTE:

In many cases listed above, repeated steps may be required to fully extract contaminant from material. Items listed above with (*) may also be removed through steam extraction method by a professional cleaner or service.

NOTE:

Be careful that the cleaner does not soak thru to the adhesive as this could cause the adhesive to disintegrate and the cloth to come loose.

NOTE:

Always check to see that the cleaner used will not cause damage to the material or fabric, by testing on an area out of sight.

IMPORTANT:

The recommendations made above are done in good faith and are based on a history of actual experience and laboratory evaluations. Foss Mfg. Co. Inc. and/or its designated distributor, does not warrant, either expressed or implied, the effectiveness of the cleaning agents listed and the process for clearing, described above.