

There are two basic types of staining substances: liquid and viscous.

Liquid Stains: This includes water, coffee and wine.

Using the corner of a paper towel or clean absorbent cloth, soak up all the liquid. After this, any remnants of the stain still visible on the fabric should be wiped with a wet lint-free cloth. Clean the fabric gently from the edge of the stain towards the center. Let the area air dry.

Viscous Stains: This includes ketchup, mustard and stains of similar consistency.

The first step is to take a flat instrument, such as a butter knife, and use the edge to remove as much of the substance as possible. Take care to work slowly and not wipe the stain into the fabric. Next, use a damp, lint-free white cloth and slowly clean the fabric from the edge of the stain to the center.

Difficult Stains: Several factors can make a stain more difficult to remove.

1. The surface area of the stain - An entire bowl of chili will be more challenging to clean than a small drop of mustard.
2. The color of the fabric that has been stained - A white fabric is more difficult to fully clean than a darker color.
3. If the stain has been allowed to dry.

With either type of stain, if the initial procedure does not completely clean the fabric, do the following:

If the spill is a viscous material and has dried, first use the butter knife to break up the crusted area. Remove as much of the spill as possible this way, then follow the procedure below:

Mix a solution of 1/4 cup mild detergent with 1 gallon of lukewarm water. Fill a small spray bottle with this solution. Spray the affected area thoroughly. Then, take a soft-bristled brush (a toothbrush will work fine) and gently scrub the area. After this, take a wet cloth and clean the area. Repeat this step until all the soap residue is removed. Let the cleaned area air-dry.

