

Reddit but in Non-Reddit Links

Laundry

- Laundry 101 with u/KismaiAesthetics

[Original Link](#) credit is due to the OP on Reddit u/KismaiAesthetics. It was for some people not having access to Reddit.

[r/laundry](#) is filled with tales of woe - smelly armpits, mystery stains, sock mushrooms, mushroom soup - complete with mysterious embedded dark chunks. I post about laundry problems (and the reactions when people post the process and results are extremely popular there).

But what of people who just have normal laundry and want a little tune-up on their own laundry before? How about some love and guidance for the non-smelly? Here's something for them. How I do normal laundry day-to-day.

Getting Personal:

What people are often surprised to learn is that I really don't enjoy doing laundry. The act of service - I think it's survival, and I further think expending the effort that respects my textiles (and the human and resource inputs that go into them) is the best use of my time. It just needs to be done right the first time, and I've posted videos on the Internet.

There's no one right way to do laundry, just like there's no one right way to make a sandwich. Much like slightly-stale sourdough with a skim of dijon mustard and cheddar and either fontina or Monterey Jack, fried in Whirl is my favorite. My laundry default method, developed over the years of contending with heavy loads I do fall in this rubric. Also note that I'm in North America with standard households.

There are endless corner cases, including silk, wool, down, GoreTex and other fabrics, semi-synthetics like rayon, viscose, bamboo, modal, Lyocell, and anti-static, pillows and stuffed toys, shoes and rugs. I'll get to those later.

This is for:

- Towels
- Sheets / Duvet Covers / Pillowcases
- Clothing (other than Dry Clean Only pieces)
- Which are at least 95% the following fibers:
 - Cotton
 - Linen

- Hemp
- Ramie
- Polyester / Dacron
- Nylon / Polyamide
- Acrylic
- Lycra / Spandex / Elastane

Laundry Apartheid: Separating The Whites And The Colors

Please note: I have a problem. I don't think you absolutely need to do results. You could easily combine the dark and lights in a color family use a detergent with anti-redeposition or use color catchers. It's also neutrals and embellished whites successfully.

I have a lot of laundry categories. I also don't look good in yellow or orange, good for you, and you could aim at the red loads and move the purples, greens. I wear a lot of plum and purple. I have a bunch of IKEA Frakta hanging up, and stuff gets sorted into them daily. When they're mostly

- Black, charcoal, navy and dark brown
- Dark blues and greens
- Dark reds and purples
- Light blues and greens
- Light reds and purples
- Neutrals like khaki, tan, ecru, light grey and taupe
- Whites with stripes / embellishment
- Absolute plain white
- Socks & Underwear (cotton blends, mostly white)
- Sheets (by color)
- People Towels (by color)
- Kitchen & Pet Towels (all white, presoaked with chlorine bleach for

The towels and sheets get isolated in this scheme because for me, I'm on Delicate and the towels on High. Your sheets may be more durable or between them between the wash and dry. They're both full loads for me, without a good load.

Sorting like this gives me flexibility in the choice of chemistry, and does special precautions to prevent color transfer in anything but the first wash, less about lint, because the lint is largely invisible when it's between

Pretreat: Don't Make Your Detergent Do Everything

I am a pretreater. One of the first laundry tasks I was ever trusted with by my mother was identifying stains for pretreating, and eventually I was trusted to Spray n Wash with solvents. Detergents and equipment have improved mumble, but I still pretreat, in exchange for not having to check for stains between wash and dry.

The Usual: Stains from Food, Plants and Animals Including Myself

This is the most common cause of stains on my laundry. It s like I nev toddler. It s also the most common cause of spots on most textiles for

My not-so-secret weapon against these stains? Enzyme pretreater. The regardless of color, they re not smelly or environmentally sketchy, the there are many to choose from. There s a list on [The L Spreadsheets](#) (a linked drive link) on the Pretreater tab. Pick whichever one sounds good - th because their formulae are about the same.

ÿü I've got a stockpile of old-formula Tide Rescue that I'm emotionally way, but I've also been happy with Whole Foods and Open Nature. I'll President's Choice next time I'm in Canada.

Spritz or squirt the stains at least a half-hour before laundering, up to are working so long as they re damp, and once they ve worked, the sta so don t be discouraged if the stain still appears to be there before w

The Not Uncommon: Mineral Oils

I work on cars and do motorsports. I get automotive grease on me. En special on this kind of oily soil. What works is nonionic surfactant, th heavy-duty liquid detergents. Anything can work here. I usually have s this purpose. If you get these spots, hit them with some liquid deterge before washing. Penetration is improved if you dilute 1:1 with tap wat a brush or spoon can help improve ûrst-wash removal. This is also a s waterproof/water resistant makeup stains.

The Woes Of Living With Someone Who Takes Notes In Ink

Ink merits special consideration. While many inks and markers and cra standard wash, many will not. If I see an ink mark on something, I pre either Amodex or Carbona Stain Devil 3, Ink, Marker & Crayon, followi

These three categories cover 99% of m [y laundry notes](#). Advice if you ha something else on your textiles. Don t dump vinegar on it as a default

Check. Your. Pockets.

I argue that it s the responsibility of whoever wore the garment to che in the hamper, barring some debility or being too young to understand (which in my case could rise to capital punishment). But it behooves t check. The launderer is entitled to keep anything they ûnd that they w electronics and snacks. Consider it a tip.

Load The Machine:

I have a 4.5 ft³ LG front loader. Truly middle of the pack. If I m using them they go in the back of the drum now. We ll come back to that topic.

I add enough textiles to reach at least 75% of the way up the opening. ðst worth of space open at the top of the drum. Loading this full optimizes the wash. I check the door seal drains for lint or hair or debris before

If something has straps narrower than about 2 or is of delicate construction stretching (a sweater like a knit cotton cardigan, not a sweatshirt), it goes alone. If it has screen printed graphics or is denim, it gets turned inside out. appearance. If you want your jeans to exhibit more character at friction points Zippers are zipped. Buttons and snaps are unfastened. Velcro is adjusted exposed. Hoodie strings are tied.

When I still use a conventional top loader, like on vacation, I loosely load that you can usually see on the agitator. I would then adjust the water level minutes of agitation, the textiles have between 3/4 and two inches of water perfect.

Chemistry:

I m a sweaty greasy mess who drops food. So obviously I use an enzyme. [The Lipase](#) (Google drive link) where you can ðnd something you like that you don t care about the presence or absence of fragrance one way or the other. If fragranced it has to be unobtrusive. From an olfactory perspective, I m not a perfume overpowered by \$0.02 worth of laundry fragrance.

As of this writing, I m doing 60+% of my loads with 1.5 oz of Wegmans stain ðghting enzymes , and either a label dose of Febu or an ounce of Oxi dose of an oxi booster of the Biz/OxiClean/Kirkland Signature/365 type. I don t use optical brightener in them.

Anything darker than medium navy is getting Tide liquid (currently the only one I Clean I forgot I owned) + Febu. No OBA. That works out to about 25% of loads seasonally appropriate.

ÿü The other 15% of these animal ð ber-free loads get 4.5T / 70ml of Tide liquid. I like the vibes and color that de ð ne which gets which when. Only things qualify if they TwB. I also use TwB on kitchen towels because they don t get a lot of stains. well save a little cash.

Automotive loads get 3 oz / 90ml of Tide/Persil liquid and a cup/ 250ml of the cleaning of a high-performance conventional-surfactant liquid on top helps the grease removal.

I am a massive fan of citric acid rinsing. It leaves my cottons cottonies softer animal ð bers softer and smoother. I use a shade over 2 tsp / 10g citric acid in a softener dispenser. My machine likes the dry just ð ne and I don t get

wash. YMMV. Details of the Why of reddit link)ng

Wash (Finally):

TL;DR - warm water, Normal cycle, extra rinses, adjusting soil level a detergent to do the job, citric acid in the rinse.

Wash Action:

I generally wash on Normal because these items are Normal. I usually maximum - this extends the agitation to get maximum cleaning with no penalty.

Temperature:

I usually select a warm wash for clothing and a hot wash for socks/under exception to this is clothing with automotive soils - it gets much cleaner nature of the soils. My warm wash is about 102F/39C. Barely over body than I like my bathwater or shower, completely appropriate for bathing temperature lets me use half the agitation time as I would at 82F/28C results, and one fourth the agitation time as would be required at 62F my machine.

Rinse:

Yes, please. All of them. As many as the machine will let me select. E detergent, you re going to get some carryover from wash to rinse, and clothes are still of higher pH than my tap water. That s a definite inc chemistry in there. pH is easy to measure on nished fabrics (just touch textiles and see for yourself) and it s therefore the best proxy for rins extra water for each rinse cycle is pocket lint compared to the other w it s respectful to your skin and the textiles to get them thoroughly rins softener cup in the last selected rinse, so my ũnal pH is lower than ta

Spin Speed:

Send it. Unless an item is stuũed or of extremely delicate construction a synonym for how much detergent-infused water would you like to ge that. High speed spin it is.

I then go oũ and ignore the machine for 2:07. It s laboring. I don t ne laundry.

How (Not) Dry I Am:

For as much time as I want my clothes to spend in the washer, and my warmer wash temperatures, my feelings about the dryer go the other way.

The dryer is where clothes (especially natural and semisynthetic fibers) go to clothing. Overdrying is so much worse than any notional overwash.

Unless it's a towel, if it's going in the dryer, it's going on Delicate, S, all the wrinkle guard /cool down my 1987 Kenmore can muster. This leaves barely damp to the touch, slightly damper at the seams. At the end of temperature and that trace of dampness ensures they never got too hot to damaged fiber. As a result, my lint screen has barely the faintest (although, admittedly, we don't wear a ton of fleece). Shirts and pants and other clothing gets piled loosely in an open basket to acclimate /normalize.

Sheets get dried all the way to dry on delicate (a tiny fraction closer to less dry) and sometimes they need an hour laid out on the bed before use.

Towels get dried sensor dry hot as a final microbial kill step and come out dry.

If the item is more than about 75% synthetic content, it's getting hung on a rack. My laundry room is warm and dry and these fibers dry so quickly. Limiting heat is especially important for blends with Lycra/spandex/elastane. It's like to avoid dry heat. That's how I do laundry.

Products mentioned here are mentioned because I like them; I haven't used them. Trademarks are those of the trademark holders. The work is my copyright. My financial disclosure information and how I get paid for this is at <https://www.kismai.com/about-kismai/Money>

- Sunscreen stains- what cause them, how to prevent and remove them by u/Fair-Shift1962

Original by [Reddit u/Fair-Shift1962](#) **Edited by** [u/15962](#) This will include a fair amount of information that apparently refuse to load. I also fixed some formatting from the original.

So- im making this post as fellow photo-protection & laundry geek because these stains is just litte too much

<Image of a white shirt with yellow stains on it here>

r/laundry - typical sunscreen stain- pic taked by u/Practical_Water_6040
taked by u/Practical_Water_6040

so- whats are sunscreen stains?

sunscreen stains are special & mixed type of stain

they are based on 4 things

1. uv filters which have yellow color (mostly chemical/organic ones)
2. reaction of copper/iron ions coming from tap water with these uv filters makes stain even more orange/ yellow , its just rust stain
3. film formers, polymers which keeps sunscreen film on the skin making it resistant, they unfortunately also binds into fabrics and keeps sunscreen on fabric
4. oil phase of the emulsion which dissolves oil soluble uv filters but it also leaves oil on fabric

so first thing- uv filters

<Image of a traditional color wheel (see here) - This one with image text: color wheel
pallette- as u see yellow counteracts violet/purple

almost all chemical/ organic filters are yellow because they need to absorb violet color. Yellow absorbs violet color (the only organic filters i know to have white powder which works like in-organic (mineral) & organic filter in the UV filter i know to have white color is HAA299 - aka basf competitor to avobenzone the third one is uvinul a2b)

for example:

- MEXORYL 400 is yellow powder which dissolves in both oil & water phase
- octisalate is yellow liquid
- tinosorb s is yellow powder which dissolves in oil phase (which btw is coming out next year)
- avobenzone is yellow powder which dissolves in oil phase

unfortunately, higher spf = higher % of yellowish uv filters = higher risk of yellow stains and higher risk of yellow stains

Second thing- reaction of uv filters with copper & iron ions

so older organic uv filters like oxybenzone, avobenzone , octocrylene coming from water when sunscreen stained fabric is getting washed , and copper ions gets oxidised and they turn orange/yellow aka they turn into rust

thankfully new generation uv filters like mexoryls (sx, xl, 400), tinosorb a2b) are less likely to react with these ions (thats why korean sunscreens on new gen uv filters doesnt cause sunscreen stains)

Third thing- film formers , polymers

• In former & polymers , like netlock technology in loreal groupe suns (Hydroxyethylacrylate Copolymer) are added into sunscreen to make it resistant to sweat, water, rubbing from skin so you are longer protected (but even when they are more resistant- u need to reapply them). They are lightweight.

But due increased resistancy when sunscreen got transfered into fabric from fabric

if more water resistant is sunscreen than its harder to remove

some sunscreens also includes polyquaternium as polymers

and polyquats are very well known to cause stains

i reccomend look in [KlimalAesthetics](https://www.reddit.com/r/laundry/comments/1m8r0lv/polyquat_spots/) about polyquats

https://www.reddit.com/r/laundry/comments/1m8r0lv/polyquat_spots/

(korean sunscreens due less resistant • In former are not resistant to appropriate to city use, not beach use. And if u gonna use them on beach

And fourth thing- oil phase of sunscreen

since 95% of chemical uv filters are dissolved in oils, they are in oil phase

and the emollients ,waxes , esters can cause oily stain on fabrics.

So what can be do to prevent sunscreen stains?

- wait 20 min after applying sunscreen to allow sunscreen to form • In sunscreen transfer from skin to fabric
- if u think about applying sunscreen on whole body/hands: look for
- wear dark clothing to reduce visibility of stain on fabric - black fabric stain (unless sunscreen is mineral/inorganic aka titanium dioxide/)
- pretreat your sunscreen contaminated fabrics with liquid detergent liquid on contaminated areas and leave for 30 min minimum
- use water softener like calgon due chelators in it chelating metal

1 year ago i did it test with calgon

- <Image of a white tshirt and text across stating: 'a tshirt with a tag will be washed with calgon, and a tshirt without a tag will be washed without clagon' here> with text: i taked 2 same 100% white cotton tshirts
- <Image of Sun ozon 30 LSF HOCH (suncscreen) extreme> applied/used sunscreen which uses: avobenzene, octisalate, octocrylene, titanium

i applied/used this sunscreen which uses: avobenzene, octisalate, octocrylene

- <Image of the back of the sunscreen bottle with text over it stating: Uses: Octocrylene Avobenzene Octisalate Titanium Dioxide' here>

- text: Sunscreen stains- what cause them, how to prevent & remove
- <Image of taped off square on a tshirt with text over it stating: 'On this square i will put 1 teaspoon of sunscreen where text: on specially maded square i applied 1 teaspon of spf on each shirt
 - <Image of 3 tshirts, 3 taped outlines, all with sunscreen inside the tape on the shirt here with text: i left shirts like that overnight for sun
 - <Image of shirts inside of a washing machine with text: then i washed them both in a same cycle- 1h daily wash in 40*c
 - <Image of Laundry detergent Denk mit vollwaschmittel with text 'A detergent' here with text: which have lipase, to both cycles i used s detergent aka 50 ml
 - <Image of blue bottle of Denk mit Anti-kalk-gel with text written over it 'and ofc' here with text: but to one cycle i added 50 ml of calgon uses polycarboxylates and sodium citrate
 - <Image of white tshirt with slight yellow stain with text over it say 'without calgon' here with text: as u see calgon one have less visible
 - <Image of white tshirt with slightly less visible yellow stain and text that says 'with calgon' here with text: washed with calgon so as u see reduces sunscreen stains
 - <Image of another with and without tshirt, with calgon tshirt has less staining here>

How to remove sunscreen stains?

so personally i had success with removing this stains with laundry detergent and then rust remover from carborundum/Dr Beckmann and again washing

but there are few ways-

- one includes rubbing alcohol to remove polymers, then washing in applying rust remover and washing again
- another method is sun, since sun can degrade yellow UV filters, but polymers & iron / copper ions and personally i didn't find it effective
- third method is similar to mine method i use, but instead of oxalic acid use citric acid.
- fourth method is using reducing agent, for example iron out in wash

what about oxygen/chlorine bleach? some persons claim that oxi clean or sunsreen stain its more likely these methods will cause that [I think

<Image of white button up shirt with pink stains with text: @slapstick_18 twitter.com @slapstick_18 from twitter.com

- When The Rinse Washes You Clean, You'll Know
Acid Rinses by u/KismaiAesthetics

Original Post by u/KismaiAesthetics

Revised by Kismai Aesthetics 9/17/2026

Why Add Something To The Rinse?

There's a Goldilocks point of how much detergent a particular load needs so that clothing doesn't get removed. Too much, and you're not only wasting detergent but also building up in the textiles due to modern laundry equipment being really good at rinsing, as well as buildup in the machine because there are nooks and crannies that regularly get exposed to much more than a splash of water. In a perfect world, detergent all rinses away and the final rinse water is indistinguishable from tap water.

Nobody's load of laundry is perfectly dosed. We either tolerate some residue or we don't have clean clothes. Further, alkali residues in laundry contribute to skin irritation and problems in fabrics. You could rinse and rinse and rinse, but that's a lot of water. A better answer than dilution: neutralization.

Souring On pH Imbalances

Commercial laundries have known about the importance of wash and rinse for a long time. Automatic laundry. They use extremely alkaline processes to get clothes clean and automatically dosed acids called laundry sourers to neutralize the alkali. Clothes come out so white and so soft - they blast the dirt and oil out at pH 12+, neutralize (pH is optimal) and dry. High pH also helps dry cleaners get starched shirts clean. It's not from accounting's lipstick on the collar of a shirt that is very much not a problem.

The problem with these highly acidic and alkaline commercial chemicals is that they're corrosive to skin and machines if splashed or overdosed. Commercial laundries rinse water and subtly adjust the dose of these acids to get it right, a luxury most home launderers do not have that luxury.

Acid, In MY HOUSE? -It's Not Just A Problem Faced By Concerned Mothers In The 1960s!

Big Laundry has figured out that they can get in this game for home laundries by selling products that neutralize overdosed detergent, improve texture, and optionally add fragrance. Selling you another thirty to fifty cents of product is good for their bottom line. Trying to dial down the detergent they're selling you to the bare minimum is not.

There's a bunch of these products out there. P&G was the innovator with Downy Rinse & Refresh / Tide Clean Boost / Gain Rinse & Renew. They're all in a single package - mixtures of citric acid, sodium citrate, a glycol to give it some slip, and some preservatives so it lasts forever on the shelf. The concentration is just right so the softener dispenser holds the right amount for a given machine's capacity. It's more friendly to skin and eyes if it's splashed on full-strength than straight detergent is harmful if swallowed. r/laundry - Downy Rinse Out Odor, née Rinse & Refresh

<Image of: Downy Rinse Out Odor, née Rinse & Refresh>

I can't overstate how much of a laundry advance these products are: the thing to hit home laundry since Liquid Tide in 1985. They are remarkable detergent and alkaline residues in laundry. They're safe to handle, though, and they very much improve laundry texture and fragrance. They're cleaner and reduce the risk of hard water residue on textiles, even with

What's even more interesting about these products is their role in redox reactions help remove transition metal cations from laundry. These include Copper is near-ubiquitous in tap water, iron and manganese aren't exactly. They have been found to catalyze rancidity in oil components. Trace oil left in laundry odor rebloom - chelating these metals out of the rinse water and out of the laundry reduces rancidity, which prevents malodor. Vinegar can't do that either.

If you like the fragrance and don't mind the money, use them. The store-bought knockoffs work about as well - you may need to adjust dosing a little.

Martha Stewart Meets Mister Wizard

If you don't care about April Fresh fragrance or the 401(k)s of P&G executives, the active ingredient in these water-clear rinse products, citric acid. Because it's in powdered form, you can make it fresh for every load of laundry and save money. No worry about spills because it's a dry powder.

Citric acid powders or crystals are available where home food canning is sold, in Middle Eastern and Eastern European speciality food markets. In the ton, buy technical grade and save 10%, but food grade is the one in the cheaper in small quantities - more competition. It has an indefinite shelf life. It clumps up due to atmospheric moisture, a whack of the bag will separate it. The one - \$5/pound or so, delivered, is a reasonable price. One pound serves for 40 loads of laundry in a front loader or HE top-loader, 40 or so in a conventional top-loader.

 This happened to be the cheapest of citric acid on Amazon with fast delivery the last time I needed a new bag.

You don't need much. It's pretty much a factor of your washer's water hardness. About 6-8 grams - which is about 1.5 - 2 measuring teaspoons. I sort of use a teaspoonful right in the softener drawer of my LG washer, dry. Most of the time somewhere between a level and heaping Tablespoon - 15-20 grams works. If your water is known to be hard, use more. Increase by about 50% of the amount if hardness past 150 in your tap water.

Your machine adds the water if it's an HE machine with a drawer or coin slot. If it's a conventional top-loader with an agitator, add the water to the fill line if it's a conventional top-loader with an agitator. Use [The Downy Ball](#) if you don't have a dispenser. Most HE machines have a dispenser in the dispenser just the one. If you find residue in yours, just top off the dispenser after adding the acid.

How To Tell It's Working:

You ll feel the difference in the first wash. Whether homemade or pre-made difference. Towels are softer, cotton knits are drape-ier, sheets are smoother feel of liquid softener or dryer sheets - rather, a cottony-soft slightly slicker smoother feel without any hint of greasiness.

Liquid Assets:

If you have a dispensing system that takes an entire jug of softener at a source close by, and want to use a DIY liquid form, you can just dissolve in water in advance. It s VERY unlikely you ll get microbial growth in citric acid solutions are an EPA-registered limited disinfectant against still behooves you to not mix up more than you ll use in a month or two water and dissolve the citric acid in the water (always add acid to water in a labeled glass or plastic container out of the reach of children.

The question becomes how much ? And that s left as an exercise to the conventional top-loader / Downy Ball users: measure how much liquid line. Put that much water time how many doses you want to make in the Now add enough acid for each dose times the number of doses.

An example: if your top-loader agitator-top dispenser holds 4 oz / 12 making 32 doses, fill up a gallon jug with 120 oz of water, add 512 grams water until the jug is full. Use 4 oz in each load and you ll get 16 grams measuring required. Sorry for mixing metric and freedom units. Die man

For drawer type dispensers, measure how much water it takes to the fill many doses you want to make, and add six to eight grams of powder to

For a fancy tank dispenser, Read The Fine Manual and see how much it Six to eight grams of acid per load times the dispensed volume in water number of doses the tank holds .

If you want to add some fragrance to these liquids, you can. Essential acid well, but maybe make a little up and see how it smells after it sits shake the jug well before each use as the oils will tend to behave as a watery component.

Congratulations: you ve done what took P&G an approximate eternity to the money. Get yourself a little sweet treat as a reward.

Vinegar Is For Salads

The Salad Dressing Man dumps white vinegar into the rinse cycle to works for that. But it smells like an Italian sub sandwich while it s working a good job because household distilled white vinegar is only 5% acid. neutralizes one hydroxide ion for every molecule of acid. So one cup of a teaspoon of a strong alkali. Readers, know that your laundry is generally that. One teaspoon of citric acid powder neutralizes more alkali than the without the weight, the smell or the endless plastic jugs. And again, a

chelators of calcium or the transition metals. You're only getting moderate calcium removal or the rancidity protection.

But What About The Seals?

There's a persistent belief that citric acid is bad for the seals. I don't have to do with laundry aside from being cute on the bag of Foca detergent chemistry doesn't actually leave the machine or the rinse water strong range of normal tap water instead of strongly alkaline like unneutralized

Cautions:

Last One In Is A Rotten Egg:

If your water has sulfur in it, the lowered pH can cause a faint rotten egg smell when the textiles are dried. You may want to use a commercial product if this is a sustained issue. Bummer about your water.

It's A Laundry Product, Not A Beverage or Eyewash:

This is slightly more acidic than lime juice, but if it gets on your skin with tap water. If swallowed, contact poison control for guidance.

Countermeasures:

Don't let the liquid or powder remain on stone or concrete countertops or surfaces containing calcium. Stone and concrete surfaces contain calcium. Rinse promptly.

Financial/AI Disclosures:

None of the links are affiliate links. Nobody is paying me to write these or from any of this. This is all 100% produced by a semi-sentient actual

- Polyquat Spots by u/KismaiAesthetics

Original Post by u/KismaiAesthetics. There are images in here that will transfer over. I did my best to include descriptions.

You've been sent here because it's likely the mystery stains on your clothes and won't come out are Polyquat Spots.

This document was last updated on 07/25/25 (edited by u/25a (one se) edit by

< An image of: Child's Ivory-Colored Cotton Sweatshirt Displaying Characteristic Polyquat Spots With Blue-Violet Polyquat Stains >

What are Polyquat Spots?

Polyquat Spots are areas on fabric that attract dirt and soil in the wash, a class of clear, flexible polymers called polyquaterniums, referred to in the polyquat family. Polyquat Spots should be suspected when garments develop stains, processes that don't come out with standard stain removal treatments associated with them. Polyquat Stains have a distinctive look and feel - slightly shiny, translucent, not raised or rough. They are never lighter in color than the original fabric, typically do not penetrate the fabric completely unless the textile is very thin. Contamination was direct (like from a conditioner bottle leaking in a spin cycle) or spread from one garment to another unless there's enough concentrated contact with a second item.

What are Polyquats?

There are currently 116 registered polyquat compounds - while not all of them are used in many products, many do. The common characteristic is structural - there is a quaternary nitrogen at the center of the molecule with various moieties hanging off it. While structurally and chemically similar to the quaternary ammonium compounds used in disinfectants and antibacterial skin preparations, they impart no direct antimicrobial activity to polyquat polymers. The diagram below represents Polyquaternium-7, one of the most common class for causing stains.

<An image of: A Chemical Structure Diagram Of Polyquaternium-7, A Common Cause of Polyquat Spots>

Functionally, polyquats are used when a product needs to form a thin, flexible film on the skin or hair. They're also used to ensure good foaming performance on shower walls. This latter capability is exploited by manufacturers of commercial toys and for use in bubble machines. Polyquat-enriched bubbles are often pleasantly iridescent in color. This film-forming capability can deliver a soft product feel benefits in personal care products that last throughout the wash cycle. Importantly, they are positively charged (cationic) and seek out negatively charged damaged hair or dry skin.

<An image of: Pure Polyquaternium-7 Before It Destroys Clothing in a Wash Cycle>

Where Is The Polyquat Coming From?

The most common offenders are:

- Shampoos (especially 2-in-1 formulae)
- Conditioners
- Heat Protection Sera
- Anti-Frizz/Anti-Static Sera
- Liquid Hand Soaps Including Softsoap Brand
- Bubble Bath
- Hair Mousse

- Gel
- Hairsprays
- Beard Smoothing Serum
- Conditioning / Moisturizing Bar Soaps and Shampoo Bars
- Sunscreens
- Personal Lubricants For Adult Purposes

And, most notorious in r/Laundry,

- Commercial bubble solutions for bubble guns, wands and machines

How Do Polyquats Get On Fabric?

They get on fabrics by direct contact, by diluted drips or rubs oû hair hands, or by indirect contact with drops on a bathroom û oor, counter o

What Happens When Polyquats Touch Fabric?

These polymers electrically bond to negatively-charged regions of û be synthetics like rayon, viscose, acetate, bamboo , modal, Tencel and L invisible layer with a residual positive charge that is electrically attra water. These Polyquat Spots become color catchers , attracting and b layer to the clear spot, making Polyquat Stains often appear wet or greasy but can be any shade found in the wash water. Thus, a light-c Polyquat Spot might pick up blue-grey color when washed with black and dull blue-grey stain layer. A red Polyquat Spot washed with a green item tha contributing fugitive dye may appear to have dark stain or blackem with Polyquat Spot washed with an item soiled with red clay staining tooks like rust or red clay.

Great Explanation, Nerd - What Can Be Done?

This is where the bad news starts.

Polyquat Spots and the associated Polyquat Stains some of the hardest to ad home or by professional r/Laundry contributors have tried everything know to remove these, and there s no practical one-shot treatment that cons Spot and keeps it from returning.

What you can do sometimes is remove the color a Polyquat Spot has a careful on subsequent washes to keep it from picking up color again. I laundering, the polyquat can fall oû or become less attractive to fugit and the garment may then be laundered with progressively decreasing requires on the order of 12-20 perfect washes.

Decoloring Polyquat Stains:

<Image of: Sodium Dithionite Powder in a jar - The Path To Turn Polyquat
Polyquat Spots

The recommended method of decoloring Polyquat Stains is with a class reduction bleaches. They are commonly sold as color run or dye remover document with brand recommendations from [m/laundry/stackexchange.com/a/10242](https://laundry.stackexchange.com/a/10242) with comprehensive instructions. You ll basically soak the affected garment color run remover just long enough to remove the surface color and turn Spots, then stop the action by soaking in cold water. This method does stain color layer is an indigo or other leuco dye such as vat dye, common cottons. Finally, you ll wash using detergents with specific ingredients complete the neutralization and hopefully keep color off the stains.

Relapse Prevention:

The decoloring process only removes the color layer off the stained to does not remove the polyquat entirely (although there s some rational less attractive to dye and soil from wash water). After the decoloring wash process not expose the contaminated garments to new color sources

Step 1: Sorting Aggressively

Garments that have Polyquat Spots need to be washed with like colors to be:

- Blacks, charcoals, navy blues and dark browns
- Dark blues and greens
- Dark reds and purples
- Light blues and greens
- Light reds and purples
- Neutrals like khaki, tan, ecru, light grey and taupe
- Whites with stripes / embellishments
- Absolute plain whites

Less stringent sorting raises the risk of making the clear Polyquat Spots again.

New clothing should always be washed separately the first time, but it washing new items with items with treated or untreated Polyquat Spots

It's also important to avoid washing garments with Polyquat Spots in particulate soils like clay, dirt, dust, automotive grime and soot.

Step 2: Using The Right Detergent

Garments with clear Polyquat Spots need to be washed with detergents agents - these are surfactants and polymers that keep removed dirt and water and unavailable to the clear spots. Most top-tier detergents con

antiredeposition agents such as carboxymethylcellulose, anionic polyacrylate. They may be described as cleaning aids or antiredeposition agents. Plant-based products omit antiredeposition agents. The omission makes it likely to allow fugitive dye and removed soils to recolor the clear Polyquat. The method is to use a small amount of a dye-suspending detergent called Polyquat. Supply stores, speciality quilt and yarn shops and online, to each load of front loader or HE wash or two tablespoons per conventional top loader.

Detergents with anionic surfactants may help reduce the color-attractiveness with consistent use. These will be described on the label as either anionic or non-anionic. They have names with sulfate, sulfonate, and gluconate high in the ingredients.

Step 3: Using Color Catchers

<Image of: Shout, A Popular Brand Of Color Catcher Sheet. 1 unused sheet is shown in gray with image text: New And After Exposure To A Load Of Darks

The most important adjunct to keeping Polyquat Spots from recoloring your laundry wears out are disposable color catchers. These are usually white non-toxic dryer sheet, that go in the wash with the laundry and are themselves composed of positively-charged polymers to provide a more attractive target for the dye in the wash water. You should use one per light or white load and two per dark load. If you contain a garment with a suspected or treated clear Polyquat Spot. When the wash water is the color that the Polyquat Spot would have taken had it been washed and the used sheets can be useful to identify which items in a load are the cause of the water. There are several brands including Shout Color Catcher, Carbona Color Catcher, and others including store brands and generics. They all work about the same way and are available to you. If you have a front-loading washer, as a precaution, place the color catcher sheets in a mesh delicates bag. This keeps them from sliding around getting between the basket and drum, or ending up in the filter or pump.

You may be tempted to reuse a color catcher that doesn't look particularly dirty after a few washes. They will absorb a finite amount of material, though, and their effectiveness diminishes over several washes, diminishing effectiveness. Don't push it too far.

There are permanent or reusable color catchers, often based on a similar principle. While they work well in typical wash conditions to prevent frank bleeding, they aren't attractive enough to fugitive dye to outcompete a clear Polyquat. Fugitive dye and soils.

Can Polyquat Spots and Stains Be Prevented?

Yes, with an asterisk. The best prevention is to meticulously avoid contact between wet state and textiles that you care about. Make sure that containers of dye are in suitcases or gym bags are isolated from vulnerable textiles, dry hair, and fabrics and make bubble solution for kids using dish soap, glycerin and carboxymethylcellulose.

However, we're all human and shit happens.

If you believe that a textile has been exposed to polyquats, there is still a chance to remove the spots.

testing that soaking it in a solution of anionic surfactants and water b where it could be exposed to fugitive dye or suspended soils can neut easiest method would be a tablespoon of dish detergent such as Dawn declared anionic surfactants as described above, per gallon of tepid w hours before washing. Wash with color catchers in a well-sorted load o precaution.

- Scrud: The Dirtiest Word In Laundry

Original Post by u/KismaiA Editor's Note: There are a lot of images in this images are very relevant. I'll include the image links and a description with caution if you have a weak stomach for slimy things.

It s Time To Talk About An Unpleasant Subject: Scrud

Scrud is a colloquial term for the residue that can build up in washing are most susceptible to Scrud, any machine is capable of developing i detergent, soap and fabric softener residues, along with fugitive dye, generally harmful to human health, but it s disgusting AF and it can s and because Scrud supports bacterial growth including bioû lms. Scrud that feathers when compressed. Other forms can include granules or

Warning: Sensitive Readers May Be Terminally Grossed Out:

Here are some images of Scrud posted here in r/Laundry by other Redd

You may ûrst notice Scrud on your textiles:

- <Image of a prurple fabric with yellow & lighter colored scrub o knit> [Reddit Image Link](#)
- <Image of a white fabric with black >darker Scrud on white cot> [Reddit Image Link](#)
- <Image of a light fabric with black and brown >Scrud on jersey k> [Reddit Image Link](#)

Or in the wash basket: r/laundry - Scrud in rinse water Scrud in rinse of drum Scrud wiped out of drum r/laundry - Particularly appalling Scr Particularly appalling Scrud from abused machine.

Or around things like the tumble vanes: r/laundry - Scrud in tub Scrud impeller. Scrud behind impeller. What Causes Scrud?

The biggest contributor to Scrud is naturally-occurring minerals in tap and total alkalinity of wash water, the more Scrud forming potential. V it s usually not in isolation, though, especially in North American mac There s usually a soap or detergent component. Soaps (made from alk especially notorious for causing Scrud, and soaps are now found in ma products such as All Free & Clear as well as green products and bou

Fabric softener can also contribute to Scrud formation. As the Scrud forms in the layers, and any oils or fats can turn rancid. Bacteria can feed on it. What Can I Do To Prevent Scrud?

Wash on hot periodically. Scrud is more soluble in high wash temperatures.

Avoid soapy products and ingredients - anything with cocoate/oleate/palmate/sunflowerate ingredients = bad news if you have a machine prone to Scrud formation. Same with liquid castile soaps. This rule especially pertains to homemade detergent hacks that use hard soap like Fels-Naptha, Zote or Ivory - these are fine as spot treaters, but don't use them to rinse away in automatic laundry machines.

Don't use liquid fabric softener you can't see through or scent beads. They promise to soften but they don't.

Consider a citric acid rinse product as discussed at [r/laundry/comments/1nhdr0r/](https://www.reddit.com/r/laundry/comments/1nhdr0r/) - these work to remove the minerals that are required for Scrud formation and help rinse away excess detergent. They also make your laundry feel and smell great.

How to get rid of Scrud:

Citric acid is the best way to clean Scrud from your machine, and varies in price, that, at a premium price. One has the audacity to tell you not to use citric acid and descaling, and then literally has a link on the same page to sell you a citric acid product. Which is 85% citric acid. The brass ones on some marketing sites are 100% citric acid.

1/2 cup / 125 mL of cheap citric acid powder right in the drum, and either a hot wash cycle (preferred) or the hottest / longest possible wash cycle (with Sanitize option) will get your machine clean and Scrud-free by dissolving mineral deposits. If you have a top loader without a machine clean cycle, use a high-temperature hot water soak. Starts, pause the machine for an hour to allow the citrate to do the work. Rinse. Finish. Follow your machine's instructions for filters and strainers that need cleaning. Check the drum for chunks after the clean cycle and wipe them if they're present. No sense trying to dissolve something you can wipe away.

Machines that haven't been cleaned regularly, have been exposed to too much detergent or have had other soap-containing products used in them may have a lot of Scrud buildup. The telltale sign is that they will foam during a cleaning cycle. It will be emphatic enough - citric acid does not foam. You can shake and shake the solution, and the bubbles disappear instantly. If there's foam in the machine during the cleaning cycle, there's still retained Scrud getting removed. The absorption of citric acid may take 8-12 cleaning cycles to get completely clean and suds-free. Be patient. It works as inevitably as Jennifer Lopez ruins a feature film.

Once your machine has achieved a clean, suds-free state, a final clean with chlorine bleach, in the dose recommended by your machine's manual will provide disinfection coverage to those shiny clean parts. It's a bonus round, but it's worth it.

Starting from a new or cleaned machine, you should run a citric acid cycle between every 30-75 cycles, depending on your water hardness (harder water softer to the less-frequent)

There's more information about sourcing citric acid and discussion of options at [r/laundry/comments/1nhdr0r/](https://www.reddit.com/r/laundry/comments/1nhdr0r/)

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