

BLUEGREEN LIVING

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"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." - Thomas Edison

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The Truth About Spots and Stains

You may have seen some of the commercials on television showing a bottle of spot remover that can quickly and easily remove stains from carpet and upholstery like magic. Red wine, ketchup, coffee, fruit punch, spaghetti sauce, grass stains and more are removed in seconds with no rubbing or scrubbing. Just spray and blot!

If only it were that easy!

The truth is advertisers are not being completely honest with you. The spots are usually on new carpet most likely consisting of olefin or polyester- two fibers that are difficult to stain. The spots chosen are easily removed by the chemistry of their spotter. The same cleaner on a dried mustard stain on a three-year-old nylon carpet would produce less than stellar results.

In reality, the ease or difficulty of spot removal will vary depending on fiber type, age and condition of the carpet, age of the spot, the type of stain, and even the cleaning agents and methods previously used on the carpet.

The first step is to identify the spot. Sometimes you can't be sure what it is, so with unknown spots, we play "detective". Using clues like the color, location, texture, odor and shape we figure out what it might be.

The next step is to categorize the spot. There are four categories of spots:

Category 1-Water-soluble

Water-soluble spots respond to water-based solutions. There are several spotting agents that fit into this category. Acid spotters work best on alkaline soils. Alkaline spotters work on common acid-based soils. Enzyme spotters break down protein spots like blood, milk, eggs and grass.

Category 2-Solvent-soluble

Solvent-soluble spots are best treated with solvent-based spotters. This category includes tar, petroleum grease, lipstick, ink, dried paint, gum and adhesives.



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Premium Carpet Cleaning
Upholstery Cleaning
Fabric & Fiber Protection
Tile & Grout Cleaning
Sealing & Color Sealing
Urine Damage Treatment
Hardwood Cleaning
Oriental & Area Rug
Drapery Cleaning

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Lemony Steamed Fish

Ingredients:

- 6 (6 ounce) halibut fillets
- 1 tablespoon dried dill weed
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1 pinch seasoned salt, or more to taste
- 1 pinch lemon pepper
- 1 pinch garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Cut 6 foil squares large enough for each fillet.
3. Center fillets on the foil squares and sprinkle each with dill weed, onion powder, parsley, paprika, seasoned salt, lemon pepper, and garlic powder. Sprinkle lemon juice over each fillet. Fold foil over fillets to make a pocket and fold the edges to seal. Place sealed packets on a baking sheet.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until fish flakes easily with a fork, about 30 minutes.

recipe courtesy allrecipes.com

► Continued from cover

Category 3-Insoluble spots

Insoluble spots include substances that cannot be dissolved with water or solvent spotters. Some examples are graphite, carbon, fireplace ash and powdered copier toner.

Category 4-Specialty treatments

Specialty treatments include strong acids, oxidizers, reducing agents and specialized chemical reactions. Rust, food dyes, urine stains and mustard fall into this category.

First things first. Before applying any spotting agent we determine the fiber type. It is important to be sure that the spotting agents and cleaning method will not harm the fiber.

Once we have selected the correct spotter and qualified the fiber content, spot removal will follow five basic steps:

1. Remove excess material with scraping or blotting.

2. Apply the appropriate spotter to the spot. Do not oversaturate the carpet.
3. Agitate gently. Never scrub or rub the carpet.
4. Rinse.
5. Blot with a clean white towel.

These are the basic steps. Our techniques, tools and processes will vary depending on your unique situation. Any remaining discoloration after the spot removal is a stain, and will require more expertise and specialized methods.

Bluegreen technicians are experts at identifying, categorizing and treating the spots and stains that other companies can't. Call us today if you have questions or need help removing spots, odors and stains from your carpet.

Money Tips for Summer

Looking to save some cash? Summer is the perfect time to squeeze some extra savings out of your budget. Here are some ways to keep more of your hard-earned money in your pocket.

1. Vacation closer to home. One of the most expensive parts of a vacation is the cost to travel to and from your destination. Instead of traveling across the country, vacation in your own or in a neighboring state. You can cut the expense of air travel or a long road trip by traveling less than a day away.
2. Get outside and save some dough. Pack a brown bag lunch and eat outside at lunchtime instead of buying lunch at a restaurant. Instead of heading to a movie theater, catch a free outdoor movie night in your community. Rather than heading out for drinks with your friends, have them over to hang out on your patio. Let everyone bring their own drinks and food for the grill and you'll have a great time with little expense.
3. Save on grocery costs by planting a garden. You will have healthy, pesticide-free food that costs less than the grocery store. For every \$5 you spend on vegetable seeds, you can expect several hundred dollars in produce. Even if you don't have a large area to garden, you can still save money by planting in container gardens.



Window Safety

The windows in your home protect you from the elements, but you do need to take care when opening and closing them. Here are some basic precautions to take with the windows in your house.

- ▶ Do not push on the glass to open the window, as this can cause the glass to break and cut your hand and arm.
- ▶ If there are children under the age of ten, install window guards. These will keep a young child from falling out of an open window.
- ▶ Don't depend on window screens to keep a child safe. These screens can pop out easily and are not designed to withstand the weight of a person.
- ▶ Make sure that your windows can open and close easily. Because windows offer an escape route in an emergency, you should be able to open them with ease.



- ▶ Windows can be manufactured with laminated glass. This will not keep them from being broken when struck with a stray baseball or rock, but it will keep the glass pieces from falling into your home. The plastic interlayer is also puncture-resistant, which can offer some protection from home intruders.

Trusting More as We Age

Researchers at Northwestern University have published the results of two studies measuring trust as we age. The first study, conducted over 26 years, showed older people had higher levels of trust in others than younger people. Those study participants who had higher levels of interpersonal trust also reported higher levels of wellbeing. The second study was conducted to confirm these results. Participants were followed for four years and compared across age groups. This study also showed that interpersonal trust increased as we age.

There is a stereotype of the elderly becoming more cynical and suspicious as they age, but these studies show otherwise. The researchers did not study reasons for these findings, but they did speculate that it could be due to a number of factors. Older people tend to be more optimistic and forgiving of the small personality clashes they have with others. They also tend to be better judges of character, with this perhaps stemming from a lifetime of experiences with both trustworthy and deceitful people.



However, there can be a downside. Sometimes a senior citizen gets duped by a fraudster trying to steal from them. But overall, an increase in interpersonal trust has significant benefits to overall health and feelings of wellbeing.

Bluegreen Client Testimonials

"Your techs did a fantastic job of removing varnish off two WHITE sofas."

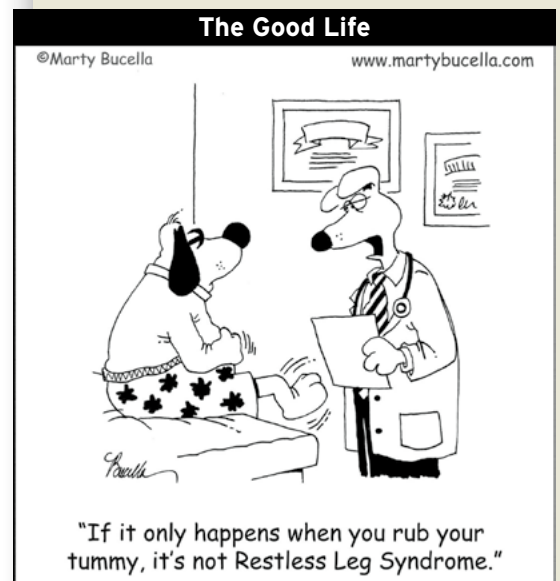
- Nancy Thompson, Verona, WI

"I was very pleased with the professionalism and desire to do the best they could on the part of your staff. The carpets look great. I will definitely use your service again!"

- L. Stewart, Elm Grove, WI

"Excellent service, products & results...very satisfied!"

- William & Mary Bestor; Mequon, WI



Quick Tips

Money Tip

Before exchanging wedding vows, take the time to have an honest and frank talk about your finances. Money matters can be a major source of friction in a relationship, so it pays to be candid and open. Discuss your debts and set short and long-term goals for your financial future.

Home Tip

If you drink a lot of bottled water and don't want to deal with the hassle of a pitcher water filter, consider installing an under-sink water filter. These systems are usually less than \$100 and provide filtered water right at the tap. Using this instead of buying bottled water can save you hundreds of dollars a year.



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The Truth About Spots and Stains

MAY SPECIAL
Free room of carpet protector with cleaning!
Up to \$50 value.

Minimum charges apply. Work must be completed by 6/20/2015.



Free 30 Minutes of Extra Help

Boxes moved to the basement? Dog walked? Trash removed?
Call us today and we will do it for free!

**Call for details and restrictions.*