

# Care for the casualties of the holiday table

LANCASTER — Don't let a little spilled coffee or cranberry sauce dampen your holiday spirits. Stain removal doesn't have to be complicated.

Although some stains are stubborn and require extra effort, eventually most can be removed or at least lightened. It is important to know if the soiled article is colorfast, since this will determine the method of stain removal. If there is no care label, test the fabric first in an inconspicuous place.

To check for colorfastness, mix one tablespoon of bleach with one-quarter cup of water. Apply a drop of this solution directly to the fabric. Be sure the solution penetrates. After one minute

blot the spot dry with a paper towel. The item can be safely bleached if there is no color change.

There are two types of bleach, chlorine and oxygen. Chlorine bleach, identified by the word "hypochlorite," should not be used on non-colorfast fabrics or certain flame retardant finishes. The words "all-fabric" or "perborate" identify oxygen bleach. Oxygen bleach may be used on all washable fabrics and colors. Be sure to read the labels.

Many stains require soaking as a method of pre-treatment before further handling. Avoid soaking for an excessively long period of time, though. Foulke advises. Sometimes the dyes in a fabric are unstable and

may run. Soaking items (even colorfast) for an extended period of time may result in color transfer or bleeding.

Promptness is very important when removing stains. Cranberry stains, like other berry and fruit stains should be treated immediately if possible. Once they have dried they are hard to remove. Pre-treat by soaking the article in cold water. If the article is bleachable, launder in hot water using a chlorine bleach. For non-colorfast items, if the stain remains after soaking in cold water, rub detergent into the stain while the article is still wet. Launder in warm water.

Soft drink stains should be sponged immediately with cold water. Some drink stains are invisible once they have dried, but turn yellow with aging or when heat is applied. The resulting yellow stain may become impossible to remove. Launder bleachable fabrics in hot water with chlorine bleach. For non-bleachable fabrics omit the chlorine bleach and launder in warm water.

Both coffee and tea stain fabrics. Soak the soiled article in cold water. Rub detergent into the stain while it is still wet; rinse and dry. If a stain still remains, chances are it is from the cream. Sponge with a cleaning fluid, then launder in hot water using a chlorine bleach. When using the cleaning fluid be sure to follow the manufacturer's

directions on the label. The same procedure may also be followed for non-bleachable fabrics except you should launder with warm water and omit the chlorine bleach.

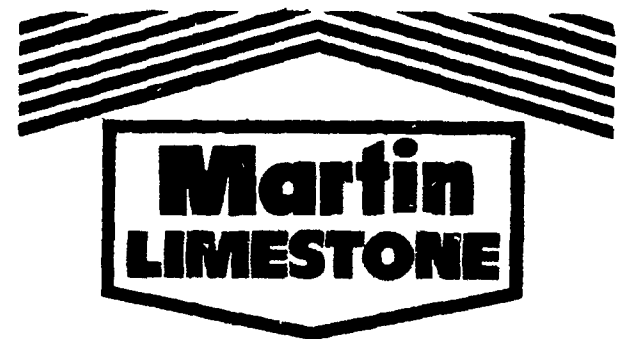
This same procedure may also be used on ice cream, mayonnaise, and salad dressing stains. Dampen the stain with cold water. Rub detergent into the dampened stain, rinse and let dry. If a greasy stain remains, follow the same basic procedure described for removing the coffee with cream stain.

Invariably meat juices and gravy are spilled. If the juice or gravy has dried, use a dull knife to scrape off the remaining food. Then soak the article in cold water. Rub detergent into the stain while it is still wet. Launder bleachable fabrics in hot water using chlorine bleach. Use warm water, omitting

the chlorine bleach for non-bleachable fabrics.

With a little quick action

on your part, your tablecloth will live to see many happy returns of the day.



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## Small fruit conference on Tuesday

PLUCKMMIN, N.J. — "Small Fruits Make Big Profits" will be the theme of the first Annual North Jersey Small Fruit Conference, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of Rutgers University for commercial growers and farmers. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Watchung View Inn, Pluckmmin, N.J.

Small fruits, including strawberries, brambles, blueberries and grapes, can provide a higher net profit per acre than most other crops grown in the United States. For this reason many

farmers are diverting limited acreage to small fruits to increase their net income, and new farmers are going into small fruit production totally due to the potentially high net profits and smaller capital investment to get started.

The Conference will tell "everything you ever wanted to know about small fruit production." Featured will be talks on the culture of strawberries, brambles and blueberries. Norman Childers, Blake Professor of Horticulture at Cook College, Rutgers, will show slides of small fruit production around the world.

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