



# The IICRC Consumer Floor and Furnishings Care Information Tip Sheet – Do It Yourself “Oxy” Spotter Stains

### **Do It Yourself “Oxy” spotter stains:**

There are many consumer-grade carpet and fabric spotter products on the market today that contain “Oxy,” otherwise known as oxygen bleach. While these solutions can be effective at removing organic soil and stains, if the solution is not thoroughly rinsed from the textile immediately after use, permanent bleaching can occur over time. Most synthetic carpets will turn a light yellowish-brown color, but pink and orange are possible, too.

Many of these products contain surfactants or detergents that will attract soil to the area if not thoroughly rinsed. Over time, new soil will “stick” to the residue creating a dark area.

During a professional cleaning, it is common for the soil to be removed and a yellow discoloration or another form of color change to reveal itself during the cleaning. Unfortunately, this can only be corrected by dyeing or patching. Ask your [IICRC Certified Technician](#) if they provide these services or for a referral.

Most stains in your home come from food and beverage spills or accidental discharges of urine, vomit, or feces. In many of these cases, stains can be removed using the following steps:

1. Remove as much solid matter as possible.
2. Blot the area (if still moist from the spill) with a dry absorbent cloth.
3. Blot with a cloth dampened with clear water. Microfiber cloths are ideal for this purpose.
4. If the stain remains, mix a few drops of liquid dish soap with a cup of water in a spray bottle and mist onto the area, and blot.
5. Repeat until the stain disappears, making sure to blot between each application.
6. Residual color may be removed by applying 3% hydrogen peroxide\* and leaving it on the stain until the desired result is achieved. This may take several hours or a few attempts.
7. If you own a home spotting or carpet cleaning machine, rinse the area with clear water only after no evidence of the stain remains.
8. If these procedures do not work, call your IICRC Certified Professional Cleaner.

\*Not recommended for wool or other natural fibers without extensive testing for possible color loss.

A special thank you to those who contributed to the creation of this document: Darcie Smith, Meg Burdick, Scott Warrington, Craig Jasper, Matt Cole, Barry Lichtenstein, Mike Pailliotet, and Jim Pemberton.