

STAIN REMOVAL GUIDE		
Building material	Stain	Removal method
Carpet	faeces, vomit, blood	remove any solids and blot up the liquid. Never scrub because this can damage the pile. Dilute the stained area carefully with cold water and keep blotting up liquid. Don't flood the area with too much water – this can create new problems.
	crayon or candle wax, chewing gum	Use ice cube to harden the wax or gum, then remove
Carpet, vinyl	ballpoint and felt pen ink	methyated spirits (but check colour stability first)
Vinyl	beer, coffee, tea, wine and most other beverages	detergent and water, or detergent, ammonia and water
	urine, vomit	detergent and water, or detergent, ammonia and water
	tar, grease, wet oil-based paint	gently scrape off as much of the staining material as possible. Glycerine (available from pharmacies) can be used to soften the substance. Finally clean off with turpentine.
	shoe polish	turpentine or methyated spirits
	water-based paint	act quickly – dry water-based paint is very hard to remove. Blot up excess paint then sponge away remaining paint with cold water. Finally, use methyated spirits
Concrete	hardened paint	apply a paint stripper and scrub lightly to remove the film and wash with water; scrubbing with scouring powder may be necessary to remove all of the stain
	oil stains	soak up excess oil with clean rags/paper towels then cover remaining oil with dry cement and leave for a day. After removing this, work on remaining stain with proprietary concrete cleaner
	black inks	scrub with scouring powder
	chewing gum	scrape off excess gum, apply denatured alcohol and brush off dry residue. Thoroughly wash down with water. Alternatively, use a carbon tetrachloride paste or try an ice pack to freeze the gum
	red wine	soak up excess with clean rags/paper towels, then sponge the area with cold water. Using a 50/50 solution of white vinegar and water is an option. Finally clean with dishwashing liquid and water. Rinse with water
Concrete, brick	tar and bitumen	scrape off excess material and scrub the surface with household scouring cleaner and water. Chilling the bitumen with ice may make it brittle and help removal. Do not use solvents
	soot or smoke	scrub with a household scouring cleaner or detergent then rinse with clean water.
	wet paint	soak up the spilled paint with absorbent material. Scrub the area with a household scouring cleaner and water. Using solvents or paint strippers on paint less than three days old is usually not recommended
	copper stains	apply a paste of 1 part ammonium chloride to 4 parts talc to which is added household ammonia. Brush the paste off when dry. May require 2 or more applications
	efflorescence	brush off and catch the deposits when dry and dispose of. Wash down the wall and wash salts away from the base of the wall
Concrete, brick, clay tile, fibre-cement	moss, lichen	treat the affected area with a 1 part household bleach to 4 parts water solution, or proprietary non-bleach cleaner, to kill the moss or lichen. Scrub off with a soft brush and lots of water.
Asbestos-cement	moss, lichen	<p>If asbestos fibres are breathed in they can cause potentially fatal illnesses. Asbestos-cement wall claddings should never be water-blasted, sanded, cut with power saws or broken into pieces. If you are uncertain whether an old cement-based cladding contains asbestos, you can get it tested. You can find more information in the guide to asbestos.</p> <p>Moss or lichen may be killed with a proprietary chemical. When cleaning the surface, use only low water pressure and a cleaning agent. Wear a protective mask. Do not let any solids that come off the roof dry out – bag them and dispose of them while still wet.</p> <p>If the cladding is weathered, eroded or shows other signs of needing replacement, contact an asbestos removal company.</p>