

## Star Tile Centre - DIY Guide

### Simple Solutions for Treating Common Holiday Stains

The winter holidays are often filled with family, friends and festive social gatherings. If you're planning to host a holiday party or a special Thanksgiving dinner this season, you'll be opening your home to a range of potential messes, spills and stains. But of course, you want to focus on enjoying the company of your guests, rather than worrying what they're dropping on your floors! All you need are a few essential items on hand to prevent any spill from becoming a stain. Keep in mind that quick action is critical, since many stains become more difficult to remove once they set. Prepare an "emergency stain kit" with the following essential "stain busters:"

**White vinegar**

**Baking soda**

**Unprinted white paper towels**

**Clear dishwashing detergent solution**

**A laundry presoak solution**

**A dry powdered carpet cleaner (e.g. Carpet One's Capture)**

**A dry, non-oily, non-caustic cleaning solvent**

**Non-bleaching clothing spot remover**

Here are some simple solutions for ridding your home from some common holiday messes, using items from your "emergency stain kit." Remember to check the warranty on your flooring before using any of the tips.

#### **Chocolate:**

Holiday meals are all about indulgence and chocolate is a key ingredient. But this sinful treat can do damage to your upholstery and carpeting. For chocolate stains, first scrape or blot up excess food. Mix a half of a teaspoon of clear dishwashing detergent in one cup of warm water, and dab on the spot with a dampened towel. Continue to blot the area. Next, dab on undiluted white vinegar to the stained area, and blot again. Rinse by dabbing with a damp sponge. Blot once more and finish by applying a weighted pad of white paper towels overnight.

#### **Berries:**

Though they're a healthy dessert alternative, berries are just as unsightly on your tablecloths, chairs and floor as its decadent counterparts. To treat a berry stain, follow the above instructions for chocolate stains. Butter, Shortening and Cooking Oil: Don't let greasy, slippery stains foil your holiday dinner. First apply a dry cleaning solvent, using a dampened towel. Blot the stain, as rubbing will embed it further. Then repeat these steps, first applying a solvent and then blotting. Lastly, apply water with a dampened towel and blot-finish with a weighted pad of towels.

#### **After-dinner Drinks:**

Whether you finish off your meal with a cup of steaming java or a glass of mulled wine, keep the conversation flowing and don't fret about spillage. If a stain occurs, first blot up the excess and then apply detergent solution with a damp towel. For coffee, mixed drink and red wine stains, leave on for three to five minutes. Blot, don't rub. Then, for all types of drinks, apply undiluted white vinegar using a dampened towel. Next, for everything but red wine, apply water with a damp sponge. Finally, for all drinks including red wine, blot-finish with a weighted pad of towels.

#### **Candle Wax:**

Showcasing an array of candles on the mantel can add a festive touch and evoke a warm and inviting home environment. For removal of melted candle wax, start by scraping off excess wax with the blunt edge of a butter knife. Cover with brown paper and apply a warm iron until the material is absorbed. Be sure the paper is large enough to cover the stained area and avoid touching the carpet with the iron as the fiber might melt. Change the paper or rotate to a clean area and repeat until the material is completely absorbed.

For a handy, easy-to-follow Stain Removal Guide featuring more tips on how to remove other common stains, like soft drinks, mud and chewing gum, visit [www.CarpetOne.ca](http://www.CarpetOne.ca) or call 1-800-CARPET1.