



For A  
Better  
Qualification  
Choose the  
Guild of  
Cleaners and  
Launderers

GUILD OF CLEANERS AND LAUNDERERS

## Technical Bulletin

July 2015 Issue TB21



### Removing Heavy Biro and Ink Stains

At some time we have all had to deal with a garment where a biro has leaked badly into a jacket pocket. When attempting to remove these stains it never ceases to amaze members just how much ink is liberated so before you start to remove these stains you must have plenty of absorbent fabric available for soaking up the loosened ink from the stain.

For heavy stains it may be necessary to unpick part of the lining to gain access to the inside of the garment and the interlining, where most of the ink will be located. If there is a lot of ink in the pocket lining, the most practical solution may be to cut out the lining and renew the pocket. Absorbent material should then be placed inside the lining to soak up the ink from the interlining and the outer fabric.

Any ink in the lining of the jacket should be removed separately. It will help to prevent the ink spreading if a ring of glycerine is placed around the stain, then apply paint remover, or an ink remover, and start padding off the ink with the absorbent material. Keep working on the stain until ink stops being liberated, this will take a long time. It will help if you have more than one paint/ink remover product. When the ink stops running another product will often remove a little more. Finally, the steam gun can be used to gently warm the stain to remove a little more ink. Never use heat until no more ink is being removed. If the steam gun is used too soon, a lot of ink may suddenly be liberated and redeposit on the textile, which swollen by the heat, may absorb the ink leaving a stain which can then be impossible to remove. Animal hair textiles are particularly at risk in this respect.

It will normally be necessary to move to the wet side to remove the last vestiges of a biro stain. Never work on the wet side until you have removed as much ink as possible on the dry side. If necessary the final traces of ink can often be removed with hydrogen peroxide or sodium perborate bleach after first testing the fabric to ensure that the colour is not affected.



### Summary

**Ball Point ink.** Kit - Paint Varnish and Lacquer Oily remover.

Treat before cleaning process. Place cotton pad under stain. Surround stain with glycerine or low water containing dry cleaning detergent or other suitable dry side lubricants.

Apply oily paint remover, pad the colour removed, keep application going while colour is bleeding. Do not use any wet side or water product at this stage. Then flush out with compressed air (not steam gun if colour remains) then dry clean. If colour remains after dry cleaning, then apply water, Ammonia and Peroxide. Flush out with water, feather out and dry.

### Ink (Dry side soluble).

Always treat before the cleaning process. Use absorbent pad.

Marking ink, Spirit based felt tip (absorbed) are in the dry-side group. They require to be pre-spotted using lots of oily paint remover to bleed the oil bound dye. Always start treatment by applying neat dry cleaning detergent.

A simple test to determine the type of ink is to drop a little oily paint remover onto a piece of white cloth and press on to the stain. If the pigment colour marks off on to the cloth, first treat on the Dry-Side as Ball Point.

Beware of using water sprays

or steam guns as wetting will allow the pigment to be absorbed into the fabric. Oily paint removers will give excellent results, providing the dye within the fabric withstands the treatment. Flush out the area using additional amyl acetate. Pad off, do not dry off, and continue treatment until colour stops bleeding, then dry clean. Any residual dye can be post spotted using Methylated spirits and an absorbent pad to take up loosened colour.

Continued on page 2

Phone: 01698 322669

GUILD OF  
CLEANERS AND  
LAUNDERERS

56 Maple Drive, Larkhall, South Lanarkshire, ML9 2AR

E-mail: [enquiries@gcl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gcl.org.uk)



**Ink (Wet side soluble).**

Fountain pen, water based felt tip. Always treat before the cleaning process.

Any colour, no clear outline, absorbed. Use absorbent pad. Place pad under stain. First apply a neutral lubricant like glycerine or tee pol.

Begin by flushing out the loose ink using steam gun, warm water.

Continue with this treatment of lubricant and water/steam until colour stops running. Apply ammonia, work with spatula and flush out. If brownish stain remains, reduce using rust removers. These will decompose the iron tannate, causing the ink to run once more. Neutralise this acid treatment using 10 part ammonia solution. Should any colour remain, treat with Methylated spirit and remove last traces by bleaching if the colour and fabric allows.

The Guild have a book on Stain Removal for Dry Cleaners and Launderers and you can obtain this from the Guild Secretariat E-Mail [enquiries@gcl.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gcl.org.uk) priced at £20.00 including PP.