



# HomePro by Design Dealing with Holiday Clean-Up An Emergency Spot & Stain Removal Guide



For some folks, the holiday season brings thoughts of shopping, decorations, family gatherings, and of course, big meals, we assume you are no different. We have compiled a Holiday Stain Removal Guide, with instructions on the best way to deal with holiday spots, spills and stains. Each stain removal solution is available on my website, [www.hpbyd.com/](http://www.hpbyd.com/) \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLIDAY MISHAPS

Every holiday involves food, so naturally there will be food stains – turkey gravy, egg nog, cheese sauce that appeared on the couch as well as the carpet during a football bowl game, drinks of all varieties (including some containing alcohol), figgy pudding, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Dye stains from wrapping paper or the red tree skirt, perhaps pine sap, candle wax and a few mystery stains may also show up. Depending on the local weather conditions, heavy foot traffic may bring in mud or ice melting products along with normal tracked in soils. OK, you get the idea of what you may face in the coming weeks. If you ever have a stain you can't remove, call in your professional cleaner.



### **\*\*A few basic points to apply to every spot or spill.**

- The sooner it is treated, the more likely you are to have satisfactory results.
- Remove excess staining material before applying any liquid. This may mean blotting, vacuuming or scraping with a spatula, or a similar tool.
- If you have already applied a home remedy cleaner, be sure it is rinsed out before you proceed.
- Pretest any solution in an inconspicuous place to make sure it will not remove any color or do other damage to the carpet or rug you are working on.
- Don't over-apply any cleaning solution. This can spread the stain. Too much solvent can damage the adhesive backing leading to delamination.
- Work from the outside edges of the stain toward the center. This will avoid spreading the stain.
- Be patient! Most stain removers need some time to work. Let them do their job. Rushing usually means you will be doing the work instead of the solution.
- Don't be overly aggressive with agitation. Most spot remover products are best worked into the surface by tamping rather than scrubbing. If you cause a texture change (fuzzy carpet) you have just created another problem.
- You may repeat some steps as long as you see progress is being made.
- For complete instructions on any product mentioned, please, read the label.
- Always rinse away the Heavy Duty Spotter with HomePro Spotter or Spot & Stain Remover.



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## COMMON STAINS OF THE SEASON

**Egg Nog & Gravy** – A key ingredient in most gravy is some animal fat. It is best to remove this part of the spill before going after the water soluble portion. Egg Nog also contains oil soluble components and needs to be removed the same way. Apply Heavy Duty Spotter to a clean white towel. Use the towel to transfer the Heavy Duty Spotter to the stain. Work it in and then allow a couple of minutes dwell time. Blot, Repeat this process as long as some of the gravy is being removed. Apply HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover as a rinse. It will also help remove any residual stains. Repeat if necessary, until the stain has been completely removed.

**Cheese Sauce** – Removing any excess is important with this stain. Be thorough. Now apply Heavy Duty Spotter. Tamp it into the spill. Give it 3-5 minutes of dwell time. Rinse using HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover. Repeat if needed.

**Soft Drinks** – Most soft drinks can be removed fairly easy. Start with HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover and tamp it into the stain. Allow 3 minutes dwell time and then blot up with a dry terry cloth or towel. Beverages with Artificial Coloring - After cleaning some beverage spills, discoloration from food color (FDA dyes) may remain. We suggest you try applying Pet Spotter first. If it doesn't work, allow the carpet some time to dry and then proceed again with HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover.

**Alcoholic Beverages** -The variety of possible sources is endless. Blot up as much of the stain as possible with a cloth or towel. Next, move to the HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover. If any of the ingredients leave color behind, follow the suggestions above for removing stains from beverages with artificial coloring.

**Candle Wax** - Remove as much excess wax as possible using a spatula or scrapper along with vacuuming. Use brown craft paper or an unprinted area of a paper grocery bag. Place this over the wax. Put a heated on iron (on the lowest temperature setting, usually "wool") on the paper. The paper will absorb the wax as it melts. Change to a fresh section of paper when one area becomes saturated with wax. Repeat as necessary. If color remains, grab the Heavy Duty Spotter and proceed as instructed above.

**Figgy Pudding** – Figgy pudding is a cake like soufflé. A typical recipe includes dried figs, walnuts, butter, molasses, buttermilk and lemon peel. Figgy pudding should be fairly easy to remove with HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover. Apply the spotter, tamp or blot into the spot. If discoloration remains, apply Pet Spotter, agitate and blot up.

**Cranberry Sauce** - A typical cranberry sauce recipe includes sugar, water, cranberries (usually frozen), and potential texture additives such as pecans or raisins. It may or may not include artificial coloring. Apply HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover. Agitate by blotting or with a tamping brush. Allow solution to dwell for a couple of minutes and absorb into a cloth. If necessary apply Pet Spotter. Agitate with blotting or with a tamping brush. Allow solution to dwell for a couple of minutes and absorb. If discoloration remains, re-apply Pet Spotter liberally to area and allow to dry.

**Pumpkin Pie** - A typical pumpkin pie recipe will include pumpkin, cream cheese, sugar, salt, eggs, butter, vanilla extract, cinnamon, ginger, and of course, pie dough. Remove as much of the spilled material as possible by gently blotting. Do not rub the spilled pie deeper into the carpeting. Apply HomePro Spotter/Spot & Stain Remover. Agitate by blotting or with a tamping brush. Allow solution to dwell for a couple of minutes and absorb with a clean cloth.