

## SECTION 10

# TRIM CLEANING

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### INTRODUCTION

This procedure has been prepared to assist service personnel in cleaning automotive upholstery, floor carpets, headlining and folding tops using the latest approved methods for removing soil and stain.

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

There are four general types of trim materials used in automotive bodies.

1. Fabrics that may be either plain fabrics (broadcloth), or pattern fabrics which are manufactured with synthetic (nylon, rayon) fibers.
2. Genuine leather.
3. Coated fabrics (vinyl or mylar).
4. Flocked headlining.

Dust and dirt particles that accumulate on the upholstery of a car should be removed every few weeks, or oftener if the car is given constant hard use. This is done with a whisk broom or vacuum cleaner.

**CAUTION:** Do not use a whisk broom on fabrics having raised tapestry patterns since damage to the fine threads may result. On flocked headlining use whisk broom and volatile cleaners only. Detergents leave rings.

Before attempting to remove spots or stains from upholstery fabrics, determine as accurately as possible:

1. Nature and age of the spot or stain.

2. The effect of stain removing agents on the color structure and general appearance of the fabric.

For best results, stains should be removed from upholstery as soon as possible after they have been made. If they are allowed to stand for some time, they often become set and removal becomes more difficult, frequently impossible.

There are three basic types of acceptable cleaners available to car owners:

1. Volatile cleaners (colorless liquids).
2. Detergents.
3. Neutral soap (nonalkaline).

Many types of these cleaners can be obtained through GM Dealer or other reputable supply houses.

The volatile cleaners have great solvent powers for grease, oils and general road grime. Detergents generally loosen up stains satisfactorily; however, the use of improper type detergents involves risk of damage to the color or finish of fabrics.

### CLEANING FABRICS WITH VOLATILE CLEANERS

Care should be taken not to use too much solvent and to apply it only with clean cloths. It is the solvent that does the work - so only a minimum of pressure should be applied.

1. Brush away all loose particles of dirt and soil.

2. Dampen a clean cloth (cheese cloth may be used) with the volatile cleaner. Open the cloth and allow a portion of the cleaner to evaporate so that the cloth is just slightly damp.
3. Using very light pressure and a circular lifting motion, rub the stained area, starting at the outer edge and working toward the center until the entire area has been covered. Change to a clean portion of the cloth every few strokes.
4. Using a clean white blotter, blot stained area to remove any excess cleaner. Change to a new portion of the blotter each time stained area is blotted. The blotting action should be repeated until no stain is transferred to the blotter surface.
5. Before proceeding, wait several minutes to allow most of the volatile cleaner to evaporate. **DO NOT** saturate stained area. This will avoid the danger of the cleaner penetrating to the padding under the upholstery. Certain cleaners will deteriorate sponge rubber which is often used in padding.
6. It may be necessary to repeat steps 2, 3, 4 and 5 several times before the stain has been satisfactorily removed. Each time a clean cloth should be used.
7. If a ring should form on the fabric when removing a stain, the entire area of the trim assembly should be cleaned as described in the preceding steps.
8. The cleaned upholstery should be allowed to dry completely before using.

Some volatile cleaners are toxic and harmful; therefore, the following safety precautions should be used.

1. Always use in a well ventilated area. Car windows and garage doors must be open when such cleaners are used.
2. Avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of vapors from cleaner.
3. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with the skin.
4. Keep away from eyes and mouth.
5. Some cleaners are flammable and every precaution and care must be exercised in handling these cleaners.
6. Always follow directions specified by the manufacturer of the product used (label directions).

## CLEANING FABRICS WITH DETERGENTS

1. Make a solution of the detergent in lukewarm water, working up thick, frothy suds.
2. With a clean cloth or sponge, dampened with lukewarm water, apply suds only to the surface of the upholstery using light to medium pressure. Repeat several times, applying more suds with a clean portion of the cloth or sponge.
3. With a second clean cloth, dampened with lukewarm water, rub over the area with medium pressure to remove excess detergent and loose material.
4. With a clean dry cloth, wipe off all excess moisture. A vacuum cleaner may also be used.
5. Allow the upholstery to dry partially; then, repeat the above treatment, if necessary, to remove stain.
6. When the upholstery is satisfactorily cleaned, allow to dry completely before using.

## PRECAUTIONS FOR CLEANING FABRICS

1. Solutions containing water are not recommended for general cleaning of broad cloth. Water has great destructive powers on the high face or high gloss finish of broad cloth, causing the nap to curl and roughen to such an extent that the finish is destroyed or made very unsightly. However, in some cases where it is necessary to use a solution containing water to remove a stain, the resultant disturbance to the finish of the material may be preferable to the stain.
2. Do not use as a cleaning solvent, any gasoline which is colored or which contains tetraethyl lead.
3. Do not use solvents such as acetone, lacquer thinners, enamel reducers or nail polish remover, as a cleaning solvent.
4. Do not use laundry soaps, bleaches or reducing agents, such as the following: chloride of lime, javelle water, hydrogen peroxide, sodium hydrosulphite, potassium permanganate, chlorine or chlorine water, sulphurous acid (sulphur dioxide), sodium thiosulphate (photographers' hypo). The use of these agents tends to weaken fabric and to change its color.
5. Do not use too much cleaning fluid; some interior trim assemblies are padded with rubber,

and volatile cleaners are generally solvents for rubber. The application of too much cleaner may destroy these rubber pads or leave a solvent ring.

## CLEANING GENUINE LEATHER AND COATED FABRICS

Care of genuine leather and coated fabrics is a relatively simple but important matter. The surface should be wiped occasionally with a dry cloth, and whenever dirt accumulates, the following cleaning instructions should be used:

1. Lukewarm water and a neutral soap should be used. Apply a thick suds to the surface, worked up on a piece of gauze or cheesecloth.

**NOTE:** When cleaning coated fabrics, a non-flammable detergent may be substituted for neutral soap.

2. The operation should be repeated, using only a damp cloth and no soap.
3. The surface should then be wiped dry with a soft cloth.

Polishes and cleaners used for auto body finishes, volatile cleaners, furniture polishes, oils, varnishes or household cleaning and bleaching agents should never be used.

## CLEANING FOLDING TOP AND FABRIC ROOF COVER MATERIAL

The top should be washed frequently with neutral soap suds, lukewarm water and a brush with soft bristles. Rinse top with sufficient quantities of clear water to remove all traces of soap.

**IMPORTANT:** Care must be exercised to keep the soaps and cleaners from running onto body finish, as it may cause streaks if allowed to run down and dry.

If the top requires additional cleaning after using soap and water, a mild foaming cleanser can be used. Rinse the whole top with water, then apply a mild foaming type cleanser to the entire top. Scrub with a small, soft bristle hand brush, adding water as necessary until the cleanser foams to a soapy consistency. Remove the first accumulated soilage with a cloth or sponge before it can be ground into the top material. Apply additional cleanser to the area and scrub until the top is clean. After the entire top has been cleaned, rinse the top generously with clear water to remove all traces of cleanser. If desired, the top can be sup-

ported from the underside during the scrubbing operations.

After cleaning a convertible top, always be sure the top is thoroughly dry before it is lowered. Lowering the top while it is still wet or damp may cause mildew and unsightly wrinkles.

Do not use volatile cleansers or household bleaching agents on the top material.

## CLEANING FLOOR CARPETS

Thoroughly brush or vacuum the floor carpet. In many instances, the floor carpet may require no further cleaning. If carpet is extremely soiled, remove carpet from car and thoroughly vacuum to remove loose dirt; then, with a foaming type upholstery cleaner, clean approximately one square foot of carpet at a time. After each area is cleaned, remove as much of the cleaner as possible with a vacuum cleaner. After cleaning the carpet, use an air hose to "fluff" the carpet pile, then dry the carpet. After the carpet is completely dried, use an air hose to again fluff the carpet pile.

**NOTE:** If the carpet is not extremely soiled, the carpet may be cleaned in the car by applying a sparing amount of foaming type upholstery cleaner with a brush.

If oil or grease spots are still present on the carpet, they may be removed by using a volatile cleaner; however, the cleaner must be used very sparingly since it may have a tendency to remove some of the dye coloring:

## REMOVAL OF SPECIFIC STAINS FROM AUTOMOTIVE UPHOLSTERY

Some types of stains and soilage including blood, ink, chewing gum, etc., require special consideration for most satisfactory results. For these and other stains, specific instructions are outlined in succeeding paragraphs. It must be expected, particularly where water treatment is specified, that discoloration and finish disturbance may occur. In some cases, fabric disturbance may be considered preferable to the stain itself. By following the procedures outlined with normal care and caution, reasonably satisfactory results can be expected.

### Blood

DO NOT use hot water or soap and water on blood stains since they will set the stain, thereby making its removal practically impossible.

Rub the stain with a clean cloth saturated with cold

water until no more of the stain will come out. Care must be taken so that clean portions of cloth are used for rubbing the stain.

This treatment should remove all of the stain. If it does not, apply a small amount of household ammonia water to the stain with a cloth or brush. After a lapse of about one minute, continue to rub the stain with a clean cloth dipped in clear water.

If the stain remains after the use of water and ammonia, a thick paste of corn starch and cold water may be applied to the stained area. Allow the paste to remain until it has dried and absorbed the stain. Then pick off the dry starch. Brush the surface to remove starch particles that remain. For bad stains, several applications of starch paste may be necessary.

### **Candy**

Candy stains, other than candy containing chocolate, can be removed by rubbing the affected area with a cloth soaked with very hot water. If the stain is not completely removed, rub area lightly (after drying) with a cloth wet with volatile cleaner. This will usually remove the stain.

Candy stains resulting from cream and fruit-filled chocolates can be removed more easily by rubbing with a cloth soaked in lukewarm soapsuds (mild neutral soap) and scraping, while wet with a dull knife. This treatment is followed with a rinsing by rubbing the spot with a cloth dipped in cold water.

Stains resulting from chocolate or milk chocolate can be removed by rubbing the stain with a cloth wet with lukewarm water. After the spot is dry, rub it lightly with a cloth dipped in a volatile cleaner. Using a clean white blotter, blot area to remove excess cleaner and chocolate stain. Repeat blotting action until stain is no longer transferred to surface of blotter.

### **Chewing Gum**

Harden the gum with an ice cube, and scrape off particles with a dull knife. If gum cannot be removed completely by this method, moisten it with a volatile cleaner and work it from the fabric with a dull knife, while gum is still moist.

### **Fruit, Fruit Stains, Liquor and Wine**

Practically all fruit stains can be removed by treatment with very hot water. Wet the stain well by applying hot water to the spot with a clean cloth. Scrape all excess pulp, if present, off the fabric with a dull knife; then, rub vigorously with a cloth

wet with very hot water. If the stain is very old or deep, it may be necessary to pour very hot water directly on the spot, following this treatment with the scraping and rubbing. Direct application of hot water to fabrics is not recommended for general use since discoloration may result.

If the above treatments do not remove stain, allow fabric to dry thoroughly; then, rub lightly with a clean cloth dipped in a volatile cleaner. This is the only further treatment recommended.

Soap and water are not recommended since they will probably set the stain and cause a permanent discoloration. Drying the fabric by means of heat (such as the use of an iron) is not recommended.

### **Grease and Oil**

If grease has been spilled on the material, as much as possible should be removed by scraping with a dull knife or spatula before further treatment is attempted.

Grease and oil stains may be removed by rubbing lightly with a clean cloth saturated with a volatile cleaner. Be sure all motions are toward the center of the stained area, to decrease the possibility of spreading the stain. Use a clean white blotter, blot area to remove excess cleaner and loosened grease or oil. Repeat blotting action until grease or oil stain is no longer transferred to blotter.

### **Ice Cream**

The same procedure is recommended for the removal of ice cream stains as that used in removing fruit stains.

If the stain is persistent, rubbing the spot with a cloth wet with warm soapsuds (mild neutral soap) may be used to some advantage after the initial treatment with hot water. This soap treatment should be followed with a rinsing, by rubbing with a clean cloth wet with cold water. After this dries, rubbing lightly with a cloth wet with volatile cleaner will clear up the last of the stain by removing fatty or oil matter.

### **Nausea**

Sponge with a clean cloth, dipped in clear cold water. After most of the stain has been removed in this way, wash lightly with soap (mild neutral), using a clean cloth and lukewarm water. If odor persists treat area with a water-baking soda solution (1 teaspoon baking soda to 1 cup of tepid water). Then rub with another clean cloth dipped in cold water. If any of the stain remains after this treatment, gently rub clean with a cloth moistened with a volatile cleaner.

### Shoe Polish and Dressings

On types of shoe dressings which contain starch, dextrine or some water soluble vehicle, allow the polish to dry; then, brush the spot vigorously with a brush. This will probably be all the treatment that is necessary. If further treatment is required, moisten the spot with cold water and after it has dried, repeat the brushing operation.

Paste or wax type shoe polishes may require using a volatile cleaner. Rub the stain gently with a cloth wet with a volatile cleaner until the polish is removed. Use a clean portion of the cloth for each rubbing operation and rub the stained area from outside to center. Blot stained area to remove as much of the cleaner as possible.

### Tar

Remove as much of the tar as possible with a dull knife. Moisten the spot lightly with a volatile cleaner, and again remove as much of the tar as possible with a dull knife. Follow this operation by rubbing the spot lightly with a cloth wet with the cleaner until the stain is removed.

**CAUTION:** It is possible that the cleaner will dissolve the tar causing it to bleed. Generally tar

will stain trim materials and this type of stain will be very difficult to remove.

### Urine

Sponge the stain with a clean cloth saturated with lukewarm soapsuds (mild neutral soap) and then rinse well by rubbing the stain with a clean cloth dipped in cold water. Then saturate a clean cloth with a solution of one part household ammonia water and five parts water. Apply the cloth to the stain and allow solution to remain on affected area for one minute; then, rinse by rubbing with a clean wet cloth.

### Lipstick

The compositions of different brands of lipsticks vary, making the stains very difficult to remove. In some instances, a volatile cleaner may remove the stain. If some stain remains after repeated applications of the volatile cleaner, it is best to leave it rather than try other measures.

### Ball Point Ink

Sponge stain with cool water, work a detergent into it and rinse. Generally this type stain will be very difficult to remove.