

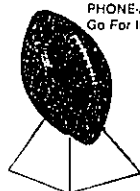
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Wait or Desk



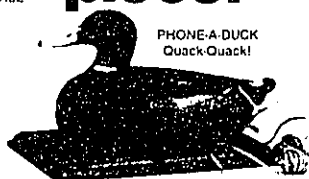
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Many people wear their favorite clothes at Christmas dinners. In the joy, merriment and excitement of the holiday spirit, they often spill their favorite foods on their holiday garb. Unfortunately, most fabrics when soiled become permanently stained, ruining these clothes forever.

"I've heard too many consumers complain that their favorite holiday outfit was ruined because stains didn't come out in the wash — and many times, even from dry cleaning," says Dmitry Gagarine, research director of Milliken and Co., makers of stain and wrinkle-resistant polyester fabrics. "Consumers have every right to get the most from their fabric dollar, so we decided to do extensive testing on how different fabrics perform when stained with typical Christmas-time foods."

Gagarine and his staff tested a full menu of foods, including gravy, cranberry sauce, beets and cherry pie stains on fabrics that they felt people would most likely wear during this time of year: wool, linen, ordinary polyester, Visal polyester, nylon and several natural and synthetic blends. It was found that the synthetic fabrics came out cleaner after an ordinary machine-washing in hot temperatures and a cup of detergent.

Of the natural fabrics tested, cotton came out of the wash cleaner than wool and linen. Fabric blends of polyester-wool and polyester-cotton also had fair-

to good stain release after an ordinary washing. The stains were the most difficult to remove from natural fibers and fabric blends because of their high-fat molecular structures.

"Wear clothing made of synthetic fabrics at holiday times for the best and easiest maintenance," says Gagarine.

Gangarino suggests prespotting natural fabrics which are stained in one-quarter cup bleach for every gallon of water at 70 degrees Fahrenheit for approximately 15 minutes. (This applies to only to washable natural fabrics and will work better if the fabric is a light color). Then squeeze out the fabric and put the clothing through another wash cycle. Most holiday stains will disappear, except on cotton when turkey-dressing stains will still persist. A fabric blend of cotton-ordinary polyester will also show turkey-dressing stains after this procedure, and even rice-gravy stains will still be there.

Your next step would be to take these clothes to the dry cleaner. Tell the cleaner where the stains are and what caused them: so he/she can pre-spot the fabric with special solvents. "All of the stains came out when we discussed the particular problem with the cleaner," says Gagarine.

For a free booklet on fabric care and maintenance, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Shopper's Guide to Fabric Selection, Visa, 888 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10106.

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