

FROM THE MAILBAG

The Mustard Remedy

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Thank you very much for sending me the recipes for getting ink out of the chesterfield. I tried the "Mustard and Water" recipe first, and it did the trick beautifully.

Beth, Wellington.

How good of you to let us know, Beth, so that other people in the same predicament may take courage. The remedy is to make a thickish paste of mustard and water, and smear it over the stain like a plaster. Leave it on for 12 hours or so. Then lift off the dried paste, and sponge with luke-warm suds.

Removing Transfer Marks

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I have two stamped traycloths and wondered if you could advise me how to remove the transfer as I do not like the design. I have tried boiling them, but had no success. "Span," Gisborne.

Transfer marks can be removed by soaking in clear methylated spirits from the chemist or in glycerine. Several people lately have told me that they got the transfer off with eucalyptus—soak in a saucer and then rub and rinse. But now you have washed and boiled the cloths, these ways may not work. However, try them. You might have to resort to bleaching the cloths in Javelle Water; or dyeing them some pretty shade.

Pine Gum on Coat

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I am writing this letter to you as a last resort. Last week in a pine plantation I managed to get a lot of pine gum on my blue serge overcoat. I have tried everything that I can think of to remove the marks, but without success. As a mere man I thought you may be kind enough to help me out. Mr. F.

Oh yes, here are some remedies which generally prove successful, but I wish you had said what you had tried. Eucalyptus generally removes pine gum—or turpentine, or clear methylated spirits. Some people just soak it in cold water, and get it off. Others use carbon-tetra-chloride. I have heard of soaking the place in metal-polish—afterwards sponging off with warm soapy water containing a little ammonia. An old-fashioned way was to rub the gum with butter. If you use any greasy thing like that you must get the grease off with carbon-tetra-chloride.

Stain from Carbon Paper

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I read your articles in *The Listener* every week, and have found your suggestions so helpful that I'm now hoping you can help me with my problem. I traced some initials on to a piece of linen by means of carbon paper, and unfortunately it smudged a little. Could you tell me how to get the smudge mark off?

Mary, Napier.

I think it will come off with carbon-tetra-chloride, Mary—sponge hard. It will not leave a mark. If not, try weak oxalic acid. Pour some hot water on to the crystals—about 2 or 3 teaspoons to a breakfastcup of water. Lay the linen on a folded towel, and sponge with the liquid. Leave about 20 minutes or so—watch it, and when it seems to be fading out, sponge with clean water containing a little baking soda to kill the acid. The rinsing must be thorough. Try the easy carbon-tetra-chloride first.



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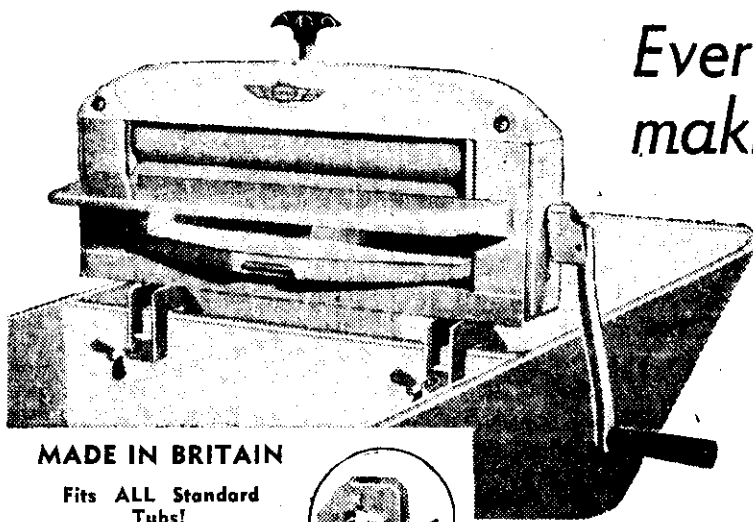
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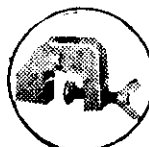
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