



# RAINIER TENTS Tech Tips

## REMOVING STAINS ON TENTS\*

Specially formulated tent cleaners, like our Tent Wash 101i, do a good job of washing away dirt and grime from tent vinyl, but they do not always remove the variety of stubborn stains tents can pick up when in use or in storage. However, there are several options for removing most anything from tent fabrics.

**Mystery Stains:** Even purple berry bird droppings, among a variety of mystery stains, can be removed with the Mr. Clean Magic Eraser. The eraser dissolves as you use it, and it can be somewhat tedious when cleaning large areas, but this product is a marvel. The Magic Eraser can be found in grocery stores in the cleaning section. They work great on resin chairs as well.



**Rust, Leaf, Hard-Water and Mineral Stains.** CLR (Calcium, Lime, Rust remover) is an acid but safe for the vinyl. It dissolves any mineral deposits that are left on the surface. If your clear wall or windows have hard water residue, a weak dilution of CLR, can remove those deposits as well.

**Mildew Stains.** When a tent has bad mildew stains, a chlorine cleaner must be used. However, household liquid bleach, or sodium hypochlorite, is extremely corrosive. A more stable, stronger and safer chlorine solution is X-14 mildew remover. This solution is a calcium hypochlorite and does a better job of "killing" the roots or spores of the mildew. Always apply any chlorine to a dry fabric for better mildew removal. Only use chlorine when the tent has mildew stains. Chlorine does not whiten tent fabric like it does a cotton t-shirt. Extended or frequent use of bleach on vinyl fabric will rob the plasticizer and make the fabric stiff. Extended use of chlorine cleaners can also dry rot the polyester stitching on the seams with the help of ultraviolet sunlight.

**Black Aluminum Stains.** Black stains from aluminum poles are eyesores. Tim Cahall of The Main Event discovered that liquid silver polish and tarnish remover removes the aluminum dust and hasn't had harmful effects on the vinyl. The chemistry makes sense. The same product that removes tarnish on silverware should remove metal dust. Tim says the water based silver tarnish remover is safer.



**Duct Tape, Tar, Paint, Grease and Oil Stains.** These stains can be removed with a pure organic citrus solvent, like our Spotter 86i. Do not use mineral spirits, Goof-Off or paint removers because these products are made of petroleum. Since vinyl is a petroleum based product, other petroleum products will permanently yellow and pucker the vinyl. If you have a yellow stain on your tent, it is more than likely someone removed a stain with petroleum and after a few days, the area yellowed. If you are not sure, read the ingredients on the label. If it contains petroleum, do not use it.

**Crepe Paper or Confetti Stains.** The dyes from colored paper can bleed deep into the vinyl and seem impossible to remove. Tent rental companies in sunny states like Arizona or Nevada have found that the ultraviolet light from the sun can bleach out the dye stains if you put the tents up in the sun for a few days. Jackie Hendricks of Party Pros discovered that the infrared heating lamps used at meat carving stations also work well. Just set the lamp the normal distance from the surface and let it sit for around 20 minutes. The infrared light has also removed old set-in yellow mildew stains and leaf stains. This is a new remedy so be careful not to let the vinyl overheat.



*\*Thanks to our friend Chuck Shipp for sharing these tips with us.*



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