

## Stain Removal Procedures

Increasing your chances of success

By Scott Worthington

Technical Article

**"I tried everything else before I tried your cleaner and even this didn't work"**

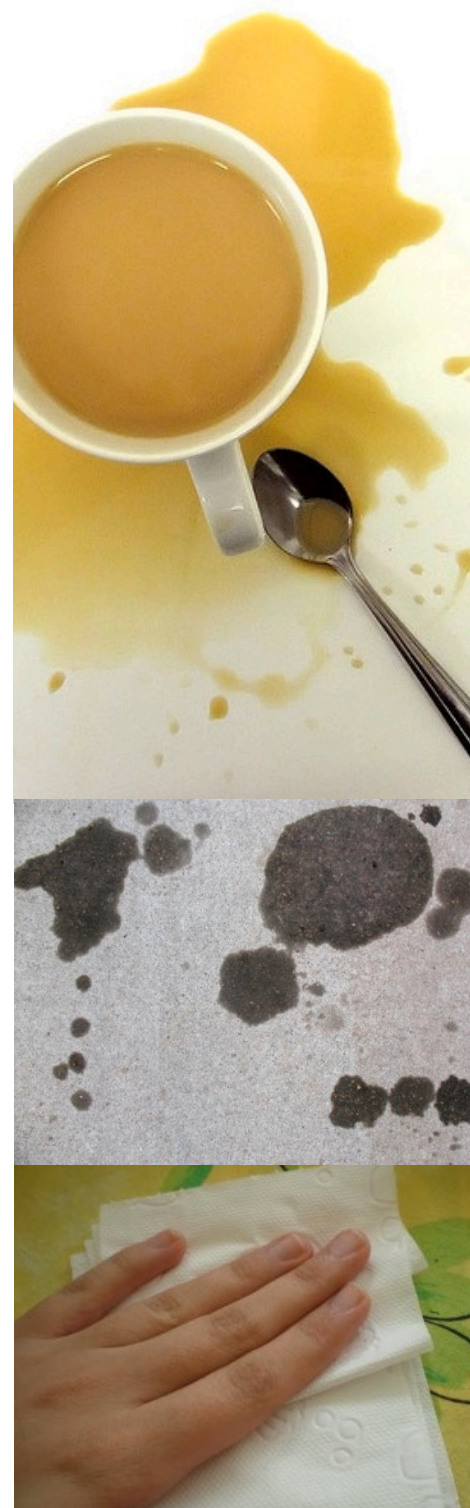
**"The stain is twice the size after using your cleaner!"**

**"The stain is worse and it has even changed color after using your cleaner"**

These are all very common remarks made after trying to use a cleaner to remove a stain from stone or porous tile. In many cases the cleaners are used incorrectly encouraging people to use ever increasingly stronger products which can in turn can damage the surface. Most people don't realize that every time they expose a staining contaminant to a chemical cleaner, they can end up creating a completely different staining compound. In doing so, they can make the stain even more difficult to remove and in some cases impossible. So getting your stain removal procedure correct is incredibly important, as the correct procedure greatly increases your chance of success. So I thought it prudent to go over the proper procedures to remove stains.

When a **water based** contaminant is spilt the steps to follow are as follows:

1. Remove as much of the contaminant as quickly as possible using an absorbent sponge or paper towel. Please make sure the towel or sponge has no artificial colouring in it that may be re-emulsified by the contaminant, as this may create another stain. Blot up as much of the liquid as possible. This procedure in many cases will clean almost 90% of the stain.
2. Allow the remainder of the stain to dry (usually this will take no more than 1 hour). This is a very important part of the procedure because if you apply a cleaner straight away the cleaner's carrier (usually water) will mix with the stain's carrier taking the stain even deeper.
3. Apply the appropriate cleaner. In many cases a simple neutral cleaner will do the job. However to select the correct cleaner please consult our [Aqua Mix website](http://www.aquamix.com.au).
4. Allow the cleaner to dwell. This is very important as time is a critical factor in determining how well a chemical will work. All [Aqua Mix cleaners](http://www.aquamix.com.au) indicate the active dwell time required for maximum performance.
5. After the cleaner has had time to dwell and re-emulsify the stain DO NOT agitate or scrub. Firstly use absorbent paper towels or a sponge to blot up as much of the stain as possible. At this early stage, agitation can further entrench the stain. Repeat this process until either the stain is removed or no more contaminant is absorbed. Any remaining stain can now be exposed to more cleaning solution and some light agitation.
6. Rinse with clean water and again blot up with absorbent paper towels or a sponge.



*Paper Towels are very important in stain removal*

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### Increasing your chances of success

Continued:

### Technical Article

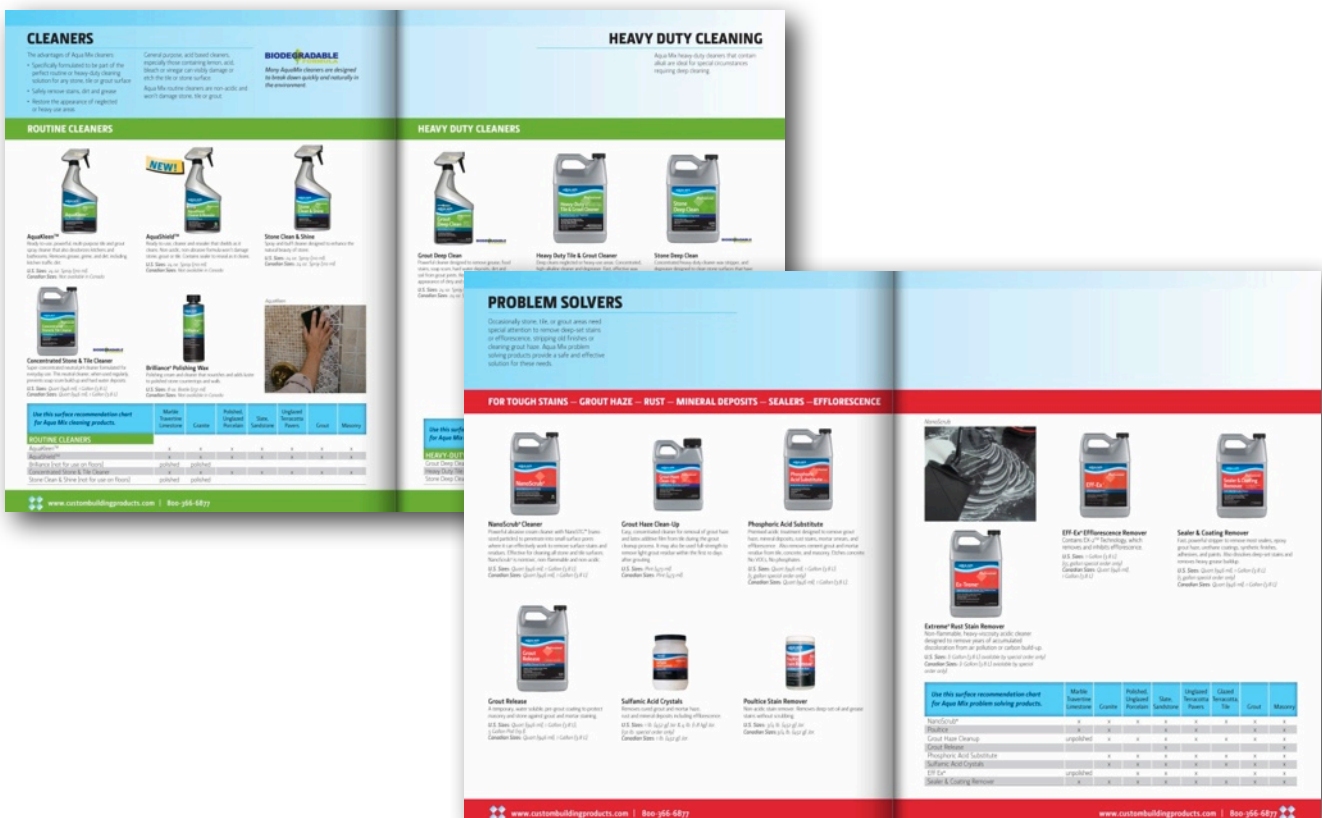
#### Oils:

Oils present a slightly different situation and hence a slight alteration to the procedure above.

1. As per water based
2. DO NOT ALLOW TO DRY. Saturate oil stain with clean water, preferably hot. This will encase the stain stopping it moving any deeper.
3. As per water based. However for very deep oil stains a solvent may be required such as [Aqua Mix Sealer and Coating Remover](#).
4. As per water based. Note for deep set oil stains long dwell times may be required.
5. As per water based
6. As per water based.

I cannot stress enough how important the use of both absorption and dwell time are in this process. Most people, when confronted with a stain, pour a cleaner on immediately and then start scrubbing. The result in many cases is a stain that is lighter in colour but only because it now covers an area three to four times greater than the original spill. Initial absorption of the stain is the answer. It is also the first procedure when removing the cleaner. Remember the cleaner is not there to magically remove the stain all by itself. Its main function is to re-emulsify the stain so it can be removed. Secondly dwell time. Cleaners create a chemical reaction with the stain so a critical component in this reaction is time. Allow the cleaner no dwell time and the stain removal result will be poor.

In summary using the correct procedure for stain removal is just as critical as using the correct cleaner. In many cases the correct procedure will allow you to use very gentle cleaners and in doing so reduce the risk of damage otherwise created by more aggressive solutions.



**CLEANERS**

The advantage of Aqua Mix cleaners is that they are specifically formulated for the job at hand. They are designed to be used on a wide range of surfaces and are safe for the environment.

**ROUTINE CLEANERS**

- Aqua Mix All Purpose Cleaner**: A versatile cleaner for all surfaces.
- Aqua Mix All Purpose Cleaner (Concentrated)**: A concentrated version of the All Purpose Cleaner.
- Stone Clean & Shine**: A cleaner for stone surfaces.
- Grout Deep Clean**: A cleaner for grout.
- Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner**: A heavy-duty cleaner for tile and grout.
- Stone Deep Clean**: A deep cleaner for stone.

**HEAVY DUTY CLEANING**

Aqua Mix Heavy Duty Cleaners are designed to break down tough stains and grime.

**PROBLEM SOLVERS**

Dispersively stain, tile, or grout areas need special attention to remove deep-set stains or efflorescence, stripping old finishes or cleaning grout haze. Aqua Mix problem solvers provide a safe and effective solution for these needs.

**FOR TOUGH STAINS - GROUT HAZE - RUST - MINERAL DEPOSITS - SEALERS - EFFLORESCENCE**

- Non-Acidic Cleaner**: A non-acidic cleaner for tough stains.
- Grout Haze Clean-Up**: A cleaner for grout haze.
- Phosphoric Acid Solution**: A phosphoric acid solution for tough stains.
- Grout Release**: A grout release product.
- Sulfamic Acid Crystals**: Sulfamic acid crystals for tough stains.
- Phosphoric Acid Solution**: A phosphoric acid solution for tough stains.
- Sealer & Coating Remover**: A sealer and coating remover.
- Extreme Rust Stain Remover**: An extreme rust stain remover.

**Use this surface recommendation chart for Aqua Mix problem solving products:**

	Non-Acidic Cleaner	Grout Haze Clean-Up	Phosphoric Acid Solution	Grout Release	Sulfamic Acid Crystals	Phosphoric Acid Solution	Sealer & Coating Remover	Extreme Rust Stain Remover
Grout	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tile	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sealer	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Coating	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Rust	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Efflorescence	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

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