Neutral Lubricant

Submitted by Ryan Aguglia, with Mike Achin

Neutral Lube is essential to becoming a good stain removal specialist. I would say that if you have never used neutral lube then you have never reached your full potential as a stain remover.

A neutral lube makes water wetter. Basically it helps the stain ":slide" off the fabric. Here is a way that will help you understand how a neutral lube works. Let's say I have all of you over for a spaghetti dinner tomorrow. After dinner, I split up the dishes into 2 sinks. In one sink I have neutral lube (dishwashing detergent) and the other sink is just plain old water. Which set of dishes do you think will be easier to clean? The ones with the dishwashing detergent, right? Why, because it helps the water get wetter and the spaghetti sauce just slides off the dishes. Inn the other sink, the spaghetti sauce is not coming off the dishes too easy because there is nothing to help lubricate the water.

So, your 1st way to use a neutral lube is right out of the bottle. A NL is not acid or alkali based so basically it is as safe as water. So on any type of wetside stain (Tannin or Protein stain) doesn't it make sense to see if the NL will help the stain slide off the fabric 1st before you start messing around with acid and alkali based chemicals?!! I will answer that for you......yes it does!!!!!!!

- #2: Fine fabrics protein spotting: Mix 1 tsp of RSR in a 12ounce spotting bottle of NL. to remove those tough protein stains on silks, rayon, etc. This is a good tip to pass around with all the holiday parties coming up!!
- #3: It makes a great PROTEIN spotter if you take 3 ounces of 26 Baum ammonia and 9 ounces of your NL in a 12 ounce spotting bottle. You need to be careful using this on wool but on everything else just watch this formula work great on blood and perspiration stains!!
- #4: 4 ounces of 28% Acetic Acid and 8 ounces of NL makes a great acid based tannin formula to go after wine, coffee, chocolate, etc......(not recommended to use on acetate based fabrics).
- #5: Add 1 tsp. of salt to a 12 ounce bottle of NL for a great urine stain remover. Good tip to know as the Holiday season approaches and customers start having accidents!!

There you have it, a number of ways to use a NL. It does not matter what kind of solvent you are cleaning with because you will use these formulas on the spotting board. Of course after you are done, using a good leveling agent is required.