

### STAIN REMOVAL FOR INTERIOR WALLS

Few people in this day and age actually wash interior walls, but the desire to remove stains is quite prevalent. Stains may come from hand marks, children's artwork, tobacco (nicotine), grease and fat residues, etc.

In general, paints which are higher in sheen and harder, i.e., semigloss, are less prone to soiling. These surfaces are also easier to clean since they are less dirt retentive. Paint quality is also a factor in soil removal. High quality paints have greater film integrity, which aids in washability. The major properties affected by the removal of stains are film disintegration (a combination of marginal integrity substrates and/or lower quality paints) and burnishing. Burnishing, also known as "polishing," is the increase in sheen when rubbed. To minimize problems we recommend a sponge be used with gentle pressure using an appropriate cleaner. Stubborn stains may require greater pressure.

If one is going to wash a wall we suggest using a water-soluble cleaner such as TSP, Spic n Span, or Dirtex, following label directions. The entire wall should be done for uniformity. These cleaners are alkaline and do a good job for general cleaning. Dirtex cleaner is a phosphate free material should one desire such a product for environmental issues.

More aggressive stains may require a cleanser. Common cleansers may contain silicas, which are very abrasive. Bon Ami®, is based on calcium carbonate which is less abrasive. "Oily" stains may be a problem. Liquid all purpose cleansers, i.e., Fantastik®, Formula 409®, and Greased Lightning™ do an excellent job with these type stains. It is always beneficial to do a small area of cleaning before commencing a major job to assure no unforeseen problem.

A word of caution: Many cleaners and cleansers contain bleach, which will react with certain colors and cause a loss of color. These should be avoided.