

MARNI

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household hydrogen peroxide can also lift some stains like red wine and coffee.

On greasy stains, like the ones my Labradoodle leaves when he wipes his face, citrus-based cleaners work well, because they break down oil.

• Easy on the soap. A few drops are enough. Too much cleaning solution might get the stain out but will leave a soapy residue that will attract dirt and cause the area to get dirty again.

• Call a pro. When you have more than a few light spots to touch up, or a heavily soiled item, call a professional, Gartner said. “If there’s vomit involved, care-

fully scrape up what you can, then don’t touch it. Have a pro come out.” Ask a real estate agent, interior designer, or experienced friend for a referral.

• Be realistic. While professionals can lift most stains and clean soiled furniture, they can’t fix fabric that is worn, sun-faded, or bleached. That said, having your good furniture cleaned regularly will extend its life.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including “What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want,” “Downsizing the Family Home — What to Save, What to Let Go,” and “Downsizing the Blended Home — When Two Households Become One.” She can be reached at www.marnijameson.com.



Grime Busters — Half the success of removing stains from upholstered furniture lies in knowing the right chemicals to use, says John Gartner, pictured here cleaning a chair the owner’s dog loves too much. Photo courtesy of Marni Jameson

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