

Quilting Tips & Tuts #7 – Biz Bucket Tip

Heirloom Stain Removal Recipe

by Pam Wingate

This is the seventh of our Quilting Tips & Tuts! It has also been posted on the Plano Quilters Guild Website under 'How To' on the Resources Tab for easy referral.

This stain removal tip comes from Martha Pullen's (Sew Beautiful Magazine) newsletters. She specializes in heirloom sewing and this formula can be used not only on old clothing but quilts as well! I've successfully used it to revive a feedsack quilt top that was picked up at an estate sale. A word of caution – the Biz bucket should only be used on things which are in good to very good condition. It is not recommended to get stains out of a very fragile family treasure or antique quilt. Instead, simply wash the garment and use it stained. Or, the family treasure might be copied into a new one and the antique one framed in a shadow box.

Here's the recipe:



- HOT WATER - enough to fill a big, clear plastic tub or 'bucket'. I used the spare bedroom bathtub for a quilt.
- Equal parts of (about a cup of each)
 - o BIZ
 - o the blue DAWN LIQUID DISH DETERGENT.

This formula is very slimy so wear gloves or use a wooden spoon to mix it.

Place the garments or quilt into the tub of hot water and let it sit for a couple *days* (you read that right – it can take days or even a week). If the stains are still there, you may need to repeat the process but usually one treatment does the trick! Then drain the tub and rinse well– this may take awhile, too, and do not wring! Use towels to soak up the excess water. Fabrics, especially pieced quilts, are very heavy when wet and need to be handled carefully. It is crucial to support the garment well as it dries, as the weight of the wet fabric may cause it to tear. Use more towels to support and lift the garments or quilt out of the tub. Garments can be air dried on a garment rack and a quilt can be dried outside on a sheet spread on the grass out of direct sunlight and not under a tree.



The feedsack quilt top I used this on turned out so much brighter and the white squares were white again and it smelled so fresh and clean! And it quilted up beautifully. So before you get rid of anything that is unattractive because it has a stain – try the Biz Bucket!