

Dealing with Spooky Stains

October 2004 - The scariest thing about Halloween may not be the appearance of ghouls and goblins.

What can really haunt you are the resulting hard-to-remove stains. Face make-up and candy often find their way off the trick-or-treater and onto costumes, clothing and table linens.

The Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA) recommends the following handy tips to help deal with Halloween stains.

First, check the care label of the stained item for cleaning instructions. For make-up stains, pre-treat the area with a prewash stain remover, liquid laundry detergent or a paste of granular detergent and water. Then launder the item in the hottest water that is safe for the fabric to help soften the residue so it can more easily be removed.

Chocolate, caramel candy and other candy stains should be pre-treated with a prewash stain remover, and then laundered using a detergent and bleach that are safe for the fabric. If the stain remains, launder the item again. The garment should not be allowed to dry until the stain is completely removed.

Now that you are ready to handle any likely stain mishaps, you can focus on having a happy and safe Halloween!

For more information about stain removal, visit CCSPA's consumer information website at www.healthycleaning101.org.