

Decorative Pillow Care and Cleaning Instructions

When caring for your throw pillows, the first thing you should consider is what material it's made from. This can affect what cleaning method you use. Velvet, silk, and satin materials, for example, usually require dry cleaning only.

You can easily find the material type either on the back tag for pillows with rear zipper closures, or along the edge of most other types of pillows. The tag will also let you know if your pillow is dry clean only, spot clean only, or machine washable. If the tag or care instructions are missing, follow the general spot cleaning guide below.

First, make sure you have the following items on hand:

- Clean white cloths
- Mild dish or laundry detergent
- Rubbing alcohol
- Club soda

General Cleaning

1. Mix a cup of warm water and a teaspoon of mild detergent in a bowl or spray bottle
2. Apply some of the solution to one of your clean, dry cloths
3. Before cleaning the entire soiled area, do a small spot test to make sure no dye transfers*
4. Gently rub the soiled area, then allow it to dry completely before applying more cleaner as needed

* If dye transfer occurs, don't try to clean your pillow at home. Take it to a professional cleaner instead.

Sticky Stains (gum, syrup, etc.)

Put some ice in a zippered storage bag and press it to the soiled area until it hardens. Starting from the outside of the hardened material, use a dull butter knife or a plastic card to gently scrape it away. You may need to do this a few times if the material starts to soften. Follow up with your mild cleaner to remove any stain left behind.

Ink Stains

Apply some rubbing alcohol to one of your clean cloths. Do a spot test to make sure only the ink, and no dye transfers to the cloth. Once you've confirmed this, dab the ink stain until it's completely removed. Be sure to use a fresh section of your cloth each time the ink transfers.

Wine or Juice

Blot the spill immediately with a dry cloth to keep it from seeping deeply into the pillow fibers. Then, soak one of your clean cloths in club soda and use it to dab the area until the stain is removed. For stubborn stains, you may need to sprinkle a bit of salt on the wet area and let it sit for a few hours before wiping it clean.

Tips:

- If you're cleaning a large stain, start from the outside in so it doesn't spread
- For wet spills, use a dry cloth to blot up as much liquid as you can before using your cleaners
- To keep your pillows cleaner longer, remove dust on a regular basis by taking them outside and shaking them off, or by using the upholstery attachment on your vacuum. If you decide to vacuum, be sure to avoid any fringe or embroidered detailing.