

Brand (in rank order, alphabetical when equal)	Application type	1 Overall cleaning score (%)	2 Contains enzymes	Works well on which types of stain?	Origin	Manufacturer / distributor	Package size	Price (\$)*
HERBON	Powder soaker	86	ns	Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Herbon Natural Products	1 kg	9.60
HOME BRAND Nappy & Laundry Treatment	Powder soaker	86	ns	Oil / grease, protein, tannin	ns	Woolworths	1 kg	2.50
SARD Wonder Laundry Soaker	Powder soaker	86	✓	Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Sard	1 kg	4.60
NAPPEE Soak-n-Rinse Concentrate	Powder soaker	85	ns	Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Campbell Brothers	750 g	3.00
FREND	Powder soaker	84	✓	Protein, tannin	Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	1 kg	3.90
FIESTA Coloursafe Oxygen Bleach	Powder soaker	83		Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	1 kg	3.80
NAPISAN In Wash	Liquid	83		Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	1.25 L	5.90
NAPISAN Plus Advanced Laundry Soaker	Powder soaker	83	✓	Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	1 kg	5.95
NEON Colour Safe Soaker	Powder soaker	82	✓	Oil / grease, protein, tannin	Australia	Sara Lee Household & Body Care	1 kg	4.00
SARD Wonder Soap	Soap	73	ns	Protein	NZ	Sard	125 g	1.75
BI-LO	Trigger spray	71			Australia	Coles	500 mL	1.50
FREND	Trigger spray	71		Protein	Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	750 mL	3.65
NEON Colour Safe	Trigger spray	70	✓	Protein	Australia	Sara Lee Household & Body Care	500 mL	3.50
SOVEREIGN	Trigger spray	70		Protein	Australia	Aldi	500 mL	1.50
TONIZONE	Aerosol	70		Oil / grease	Australia	Pacific Products	350 g	3.15
DOMINANT	Aerosol	69			Australia	Dominant	300 g	8.65
RELIANCE	Trigger spray	69			Australia	Coles	500 mL	1.55
SARD Wonder Stick	Stick	68	ns		Australia	Sard	100 g	4.00
SHOUT Superior	Trigger spray	68	ns		Australia	S C Johnson	400 mL	3.35
HOME BRAND	Pump pack	67	ns	Protein	Australia	Woolworths	500 mL	1.55
NO FRILLS	Aerosol	67	ns		Australia	Franklins	300 g	2.05
NO FRILLS	Trigger spray	67			Australia	Franklins	750 mL	1.65
PREEN with UltraLift	Trigger spray	67		Oil / grease	Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	375 mL	3.45
AMWAY	Aerosol	66	ns		USA	Amway	350 g	9.70
DE-SOLV-IT Sticky Spot and Stain Remover	Pump pack	65	ns		Australia	RCR International	250 mL	5.00
BI-LO	Aerosol	63			Australia	Coles	300 g	1.95
ORANGE POWER	Trigger spray	63	ns		Australia	Orange Power	750 mL	4.15
RELIANCE	Aerosol	63			Australia	Coles	300 g	2.65
HOME BRAND Spray & Wash	Aerosol	61	ns		Australia	Woolworths	300 g	2.00
SARD Wonder Spray	Trigger spray	61	ns		Australia	Sard	500 mL	3.70
DOMINANT	Trigger spray	59			Australia	Dominant	500 mL	12.25
PREEN Direct	Liquid	59	✓		Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	200 mL	3.65
PREEN with UltraLift	Aerosol	59			Australia	Reckitt Benckiser	200 g	3.30
ALLENDALE Ink and Stain Remover	Liquid	53	ns		Australia	Allendale Products	125 mL	4.35

Some well-known products had been discontinued or were being reformulated when we tested, which is why you won't find them in the table.

* Prices are those we paid in May/June 2002, rounded to the nearest five cents.

ns Not stated.

1 Overall cleaning score

We assessed each product for how well it removed blood (a protein-based stain), red wine (tannin-based) and a mineral oil/soot mix (to simulate black grease), and combined the results. Fixed stains like these make it a particularly harsh test.

Following manufacturers' instructions we applied the cleaners to specially soiled cotton swatches, then put them through a warm-water wash with a good detergent. The results were measured using a spectrophotometer, which is more sensitive than our eyes: differences in scores of 4% or more are visible.

Results may differ slightly using hot or cold water, and for different stains.

2 Contains enzymes

See *Types of stain*, above left, for more on this.

For specific stains

Some products only claim to be suitable for specific stains, so we didn't test them on others.

■ **DR BECKMANN Stain Devils — Coffee, Tea & Perspiration:** Worked well on red wine, so it's worth a try for tannin-based stains. **DR BECKMANN Stain Devils — Fat, Grease, Oils & Curry** may be OK for these types of food stain but was relatively poor on our black grease.

■ **DYLON Stain Remover 1**, which claims to work on oils, grease, make-up, biro, ink, chocolate, grass, sauces and polish, also produced a relatively poor result on our black grease, but wasn't too bad for blood. We didn't test on any stains like ink. **DYLON Stain Remover 2** for coffee, wine, blood, mud, gravy, milk, collar/cuff grime worked well on blood but was only average for red wine.