



KEEP UNDER THE SINK • PRINTABLE

Spilled coffee on your **rug**?

The 10-minute express protocol, the method for a dried stain — and most importantly, what to do **by material** so you don't set the stain for good.

FRESH STAIN

Act in under 10 minutes

The 5 steps in the right order, with no rubbing.

DRIED STAIN

Rescue it without a ring

Rehydrate, treat, rinse — step by step.

BY MATERIAL

7 materials in detail

Wool, synthetic, sisal, silk, viscose, white, carpet.



90% of coffee stains that become permanent do so because of one mistake: rubbing, using hot water, or a product that's too strong.

This guide helps you avoid those 3 mistakes. It complements the article "Coffee stain on a rug: what to do by material" on pronett67.fr

✓ No harsh chemicals ✓ Exact dosages ✓ Tested on rugs & carpets ✓ Alsace special — 67

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→ **Start with the page for your situation, not the first recipe you find online.**

EMERGENCY — 0 TO 10 MINUTES

Spilled coffee: the 5 steps, in this order

If the coffee has just spilled, don't hunt for a product yet. Order matters more than the stain remover. Blot, never rub.

1

MINUTE 0 — REMOVE THE EXCESS

Blot — don't scrape outwards

With a spoon or the edge of a piece of cardboard, lift the surface liquid. Then press with a paper towel / clean white cloth. Change the area of the cloth as soon as it turns brown.

2

MINUTES 1-2 — STOP IT SOAKING IN

Blot from the outside towards the centre

Always in this direction, otherwise you make the stain bigger. No circular motion, no rubbing. The coffee should go into the cloth, not spread into the fibres.

3

MINUTES 2-4 — COLD WATER ONLY

Dampen lightly with cold / lukewarm water

A few drops of cold water on a white cloth, then blot. **Never hot water:** it sets the coffee tannins, especially on wool and natural fibres.

4

MINUTES 4-8 — FIRST GENTLE TREATMENT

1 drop of mild dish soap, diluted

In 250 ml cold water + 1 drop of colourless dish soap. Blot in small touches. Test on a hidden corner first (see p. 5).

5

MINUTES 8-10 — RINSE & DRY WITHOUT A RING

Rinse with a clean damp cloth, then dry flat

Rinse with a cloth in clear water until it comes out clean. Place a dry towel + a light weight for 30 min. Air-dry, away from a radiator.

— Never do this on a fresh stain

- Rub, scrub hard or use an abrasive sponge
- Hot water, hot hairdryer, radiator right against the rug
- Bleach, ammonia, coloured stain remover on a light rug / wool / silk
- Soak it: too much water = ring + odour + damaged rug backing

DRIED OR SET-IN STAIN — FOUND THE NEXT DAY

How to remove a dried coffee stain

A dried stain isn't lost, but it mustn't be treated like a fresh one. First, gently rehydrate it — without soaking the rug.

1

Vacuum it dry

Vacuum slowly over the area (no aggressive rotating brush on wool / sisal). Remove dust and dry residue that would block the treatment.

2

Rehydrate by blotting

White cloth + cold water, in touches of 20–30 seconds. The stain should soften, not swim. Repeat 3–4 times. On sisal / jute / silk: minimal moisture, see table p. 4.

3

Apply the solution suited to the material

Choose from the table on p. 4 and the recipes on p. 5. Leave for 5–10 minutes maximum. Never let the product dry on the stain.

4

Blot, rinse, repeat if needed

Blot with a clean cloth, rinse with clear water. Two or three gentle passes beat one aggressive pass. If the cloth still browns, keep going.

5

Finish with baking soda (only if the material allows it)

On synthetic / cotton, well rinsed and still slightly damp: a fine layer of baking soda for 30 min to 2 hrs, then vacuum. It absorbs residue and odours. **Forbidden on silk, wet viscose and soaked sisal.**

6

Dry completely before putting it back

Dry towel + ventilation. Don't replace furniture or walk on it while the backing is damp — otherwise the mark and odour come back.

The dried-stain trap: the ring

If you wet only the centre, the tannins migrate to the edges as it dries. Always work slightly wider than the visible stain, fading the moisture outwards, and dry evenly.

THE HEART OF THE GUIDE — CHECK BEFORE ANY PRODUCT

What to do by rug material?

The same recipe can save a synthetic rug and ruin a silk one. Find your material, then follow only its row.

Material	Recommended method	Absolutely avoid	Risk level
Wool	Cold water + very diluted mild dish soap, light blotting. Minimal rinsing.	Hot water, prolonged vinegar, rubbing, strong alkalis	HIGH Felts and fades fast
Synthetic polypropylene, polyester, nylon	The most tolerant: cold water, mild soap or diluted vinegar (p. 5), baking soda to finish.	Bleach (except pure white & label OK), boiling water	LOW Ideal to start with
Cotton / Linen	Cold water + mild soap, then careful rinsing. Dry flat to avoid shrinking.	Long soaking, drying on a radiator	MEDIUM
Sisal, jute, coir	Almost dry: blot, cloth barely damp, dry immediately. Often only a pro clean limits the mark.	Lots of water, vinegar, wet baking soda — water itself stains these fibres	VERY HIGH
Silk	Don't treat it yourself if the rug is valuable. Blot dry, minimal cold water, then call a pro.	Any home stain remover, rubbing, heat	VERY HIGH
Viscose / Tencel	Blot with a barely damp cloth, dry quickly. Wet viscose loses strength and keeps rings.	Soaking, wet baking soda, brush	VERY HIGH
White / light rug	Cold water + colourless soap. Always white cloths (a coloured cloth can transfer dye). Perfect rinsing = no greying.	Coloured products, balsamic vinegar, "rinsing" coffee with hot water	MEDIUM Rings show up
Wall-to-wall carpet	Same protocol as synthetic / wool by composition. Watch the underfloor: little water, ventilated drying.	Consumer carpet shampooer soaking without powerful extraction	MEDIUM

Don't know your material?

Check the label under the rug. No label: treat it as **fragile by default** (wool protocol, cold water, hidden test) until proven otherwise. In doubt, send a photo to a pro before applying any product.

EXACT DOSAGES — NOT "A BIT OF..."

The 3 recipes that work — and their limits

Always: test on a hidden area for 5 minutes, white cloth, cold water, rinse with clear water. If colour comes off on the test cloth, stop.

1 — Mild dish soap • the safest

250 ml cold water + 1 drop

How to: mix in a bowl, pick up with a white cloth, blot in touches. Rinse with a cloth in clear water until the foam is gone. Too much soap attracts dust and greys the rug again.

✓ Wool, synthetic, cotton, white • × Don't overdose on silk / viscose

2 — Diluted white vinegar • while still damp

1 part vinegar + 2 parts cold water

How to: spray lightly or blot with a cloth, leave 3–5 min, blot, rinse well with a clean damp cloth. Good on tannins, but prolonged acidity weakens wool and some dyes.

✓ Synthetic, cotton, synthetic carpet • × Avoid on silk, sisal, jute, old wool / fragile dyes

3 — Baking soda • finish & odours

Fine powder, 30 min to 2 hrs

How to: only **after** treating and rinsing, on a rug that's still very slightly damp or dry. Sprinkle fine, leave, vacuum slowly. As a paste (baking soda + a few drops of water): only for resistant synthetics, never with soaking.

✓ Synthetic, cotton • × Not on silk, wet viscose, sisal — and never as the only "remover" on a fresh stain

Products to ban

Bleach (except very specific cases), ammonia, concentrated soda crystals, coloured "miracle" removers, steam cleaner on wool / silk / viscose.

The test that saves a rug

Hidden corner + white cloth + diluted product, 5 min. If colour on the cloth, if the fibre stiffens or fades: stop, dry, go pro (p. 6).

PRINT AND KEEP WITH YOUR CLEANING PRODUCTS

SOS Coffee Checklist — cut out



Coffee on a rug — I do it in order:

- ☐ 1. I blot with a **white** cloth, from outside to centre — I don't rub
- ☐ 2. **Cold** water only — never hot, never a radiator
- ☐ 3. I check the **material** (label) and test on a hidden corner
- ☐ 4. Mild diluted solution (p. 5), blotting, 5–10 min max
- ☐ 5. I **rinse** with a cloth in clear water until it comes out clean
- ☐ 6. I dry flat, ventilated — no furniture on top while damp inside
- ☐ **STOP if:** silk / sisal / viscose, valuable rug, colour transferring, stain > 24 hrs or ring spreading → photo + pro advice

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL A PROFESSIONAL?

A dried stain over 24 hours old, a wool / silk / viscose or Oriental rug, a large stain or one with milk / sugar (odour to come), a ring after a first attempt, or a white rug greying despite rinsing. In these cases, insisting yourself often does more damage than the stain itself. Professional injection-extraction cleaning, suited to the fibre, removes tannins deep down without soaking the backing.

Unsure? Send a photo — we'll tell you if it can be saved.

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Free Pronett67 guide — companion to the article "Coffee stain on a rug: what to do by material" (pronett67.fr/blog/tache-cafe-tapis). Results vary by fibre, age and depth of the stain. Always test on a hidden area. © Pronett67 — Strasbourg, Alsace.