

Options for removing stains from quilts –

Mark Lipinski's "Buttermilk Bath"

To make a solution for soaking a vintage quilt or quilt top that has age stains:

- 1) In a large pan mix one gallon water, one quart buttermilk, and one tablespoon lemon juice.
- 2) Place quilt in solution and set aside for at least three hours and as much as two days. Remove and rinse thoroughly. Repeat if necessary.

Another Stain-removing solution

- 1) Equal parts of Clorox II (the blue box) and ivory hand-dishwashing liquid (the white bottle – the liquid is pearlescent).
- 2) Fill the bathtub with enough water to cover the quilt, and equal parts of the two products (say a quarter cup each—or for a larger quilt, a half-cup each).
- 3) Add to the tub and stir around to dissolve and mix. Immerse the quilt and leave for a few hours.
- 4) Rinse well

Hint – when using the bathtub to treat a quilt

- 1) Fill the tub with enough water to cover the quilt and whatever product you are using to clean with or treat the stains.
- 2) Place the quilt in a plastic laundry tub and lower into the water.
- 3) Press and squeeze the water through the quilt, drain the tub and use your hands to press the water out—do not wring the quilt.
- 4) Run the rinse water, press and squeeze, and drain again.
- 5) Repeat the fill/press/squeeze/drain procedure until the water is clear and soap-free.
- 6) Press out as much excess water as possible and lift the quilt from the tub keeping it in the laundry basket.

This process allows you to launder a quilt without stressing the piecing and/or quilting.

Please note: This information is offered as a service to our members. Washington Stars Quilt Guild cannot be held responsible for any damage that might occur to your quilt as a result of using either of these processes. Use at your own risk.