

REAL SIMPLE

| LIFE MADE EASIER |

EASY WAYS TO CLEAN ANYTHING

THE A-TO-Z GUIDE EVERY HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

HOW TO BE HAPPIER AT WORK

DIY FACIALS FROM THE PROS

BECOME A BETTER COOK: 6 SIMPLE TECHNIQUES

plus
4 TAX MISTAKES YOU'LL NEVER MAKE AGAIN

* wipe with a (lint-free) coffee filter

* scrub the spout with a bottle brush

* just rinse bristles in hot water

now what!?

SMART SOLUTIONS FOR LIFE'S LITTLE DISASTERS



"I just took a linen dress out of winter storage and discovered that it has big yellow spots on it."

Sheva Sputz, via e-mail

THE FIX: If the dress is dry-clean only, bring the problem to a pro. If it's washable, fill the sink with lukewarm water and three to four ounces of OxiClean Versatile Stain Remover (\$8, walmart.com), then soak the dress for an hour and rinse in cold water, says Wayne Edelman, the owner of Meurice Garment Care, a dry cleaner in New York City. Line-dry the dress and then check to see if the blotches are completely gone. (Don't put it in the dryer until you're sure, because heat can set stains.) If the stains are still there, see if a dry cleaner can remove them. To fend off surprise spots in the future, remember to launder clothes before placing them in off-season storage. "Sometimes clothing that looks clean has invisible splatter marks from oily foods, like salad dressing, or sugary drinks, like white wine," says Edelman. "These stains oxidize and change color over time." And never stow garments in plastic dry-cleaning bags; that can mar fabric, too.



"How can I save an oversalted dish?"

Bethany Parker, via Facebook

THE FIX: For soups and stews, add more of the main ingredients, says Ken Oringer, the chef at Clio, a restaurant in Boston. You can also fold in pureed white beans or chickpeas to counter the saltiness without altering the flavor. Stuck with an oversalted slab of meat? Serve it over an unsalted starch or grain, such as rice, potato puree, polenta, or quinoa, says Alicia Walter, the chef at La Scuola di Eataly, an Italian cooking school in New York City. Together the meat and the starch will blend into a properly seasoned bite. As for oversalted vegetables, pair them with a mild cheese, like ricotta or mozzarella. "The cream coats your mouth and neutralizes the salt," says Walter. No time for these antidotes? Accompany the food with a sweet, fizzy wine, like Prosecco or Champagne, or even sparkling water. Bubbles cleanse the palate of salt, which means every sip refreshes your taste buds.

"My new puppy digs holes in the yard!"

Lori McGovern, via Facebook

THE FIX: First, understand that "puppies are like toddlers. They shouldn't be left to their own devices," says Victoria Schade, the author of *Bonding With Your Dog*. When they are, they come up with their own games (digging is a favorite) to help them burn off energy. So rather than leave your dog outside unsupervised, take him for a walk, arrange for puppy playdates, or drop him off at doggy day care, says veterinarian Nicholas Dodman, the author of *The Dog Who Loved Too Much*. There's also a chance that your pooch tears up turf because the behavior comes naturally to his breed, which means that he won't outgrow it. (Digging is common with dachshunds and terriers, says Schade.) If this is the case, give him a sanctioned place near the house to dig. Bury treats and scatter toys in the area to make it appealing, then bring him to the spot every few days. With luck, digging there—and only there—should become a habit after a month or two.



HAVE A DISASTER that needs solving? Scan this page and share your problem, or go to realsimple.com/nowwhat.