

## Cleaning Up Pet Stains and Odors

By Sherry Woodard

If your pet has an “accident” in your home, it’s important to neutralize the spot with an enzymatic cleaner to completely get rid of the odor. Otherwise, the smell is an invitation to the animal to mark the same spot again. The enzymes in the cleaner (Nature’s Miracle and Simple Solution are two brands) digest the odor-causing protein in organic materials. These products are safe for use around pets and children.

Bleach is also a good cleaner, but it is not as safe because it is often used at strong concentrations. (It may also bleach out your carpets or floors.) When using any cleaners, always read and follow the directions carefully.

A black light can be helpful in locating urine accident sites, even old accident sites. Turn off all the lights in the room, except the black light, of course. As the stain lights up, you can mark the outline with chalk. You may need to rinse or soak the spot if prior efforts failed to completely clean the site.

While accident sites are drying, they may still be attractive as an elimination spot. To discourage your pet, you can try covering the spot with vinyl, flannel-backed tablecloths, which are machine-washable, inexpensive, and unattractive to most dogs and cats.

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