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How Can I Remove The Ring Left On My Furniture From My Daughter's Drink Container?

Joan Sellers

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A weekly question/answer column

How Can I Remove The Ring Left On My Furniture From My Daughter's Drink Container?

Joan Sellers answers:*

Moisture rings on furniture can be white or dark to black. A white ring is on the surface, just in the finish, and it can usually be removed by using a light abrasive. If you have a black ring, the moisture has gone beyond the finish and penetrated into the wood. A black ring is much more difficult to remove and usually requires refinishing the complete surface area.

To remove white rings on furniture or for general furniture cleaning, try the following procedure.

- 1/4 cup gum turpentine, 3/4 cup boiled linseed oil, and 0000 steel wool.
- Place turpentine and oil in a glass jar. Cover with a tight lid. Shake well before using. When ready to use, put hot water in a small flat can or jar (a tuna fish can works well.) Pour some of the oil/turpentine mixture on top. Dip the pad of steel wool into the mixture and rub the wood surface back and forth with the grain.
- When the task is complete and the ring is removed, polish with a wax or with lemon oil, depending on what has been used in the past. Don't use oil on a waxed surface or wax on a surface that was previously polished with oil, as it will become "gummy" or "sticky" to the touch. You may just want to polish with a clean soft cloth.

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* Joan Sellers, Utah State University Extension Millard County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent