

CUTS THROUGH RED TAPE, GETS / PROBLEMS AND STANDS UP FOR /

action

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Q&A

I NEED TO RID MY DRESS OF RUST MARK

Q. One enchanted evening I must have leaned against a rusty railing. My beautiful, not to mention expensive, white cocktail dress has a rusty line across the derrière.

Neither dry cleaning nor hand washing has removed it.

Is there any way I can save my dress?

*Joanne L.,
Miami Beach*

A. Try Magica Rust Remover. It's safe to use on most fabrics. "We tried it on just about everything with pretty good results," says Magica's aptly named Rusty Williams in Oshkosh, Wis.

He recommends the water-soluble gel rather than the spray for fabrics. It shouldn't remove anything other than the rust stain, but to be safe, test it on an inconspicuous part of your dress first.

Florida Yacht Charters on Miami Beach stocks the stuff. A few other stores in South Florida also carry it. Call 920-236-4233 or e-mail magica@athenet.net to get the list.

Or you can order it directly from the company via phone or its website — www.magicarustremover.com.

Two 1.25-ounce tubes cost

\$7.90 plus shipping and handling. It's also available in an 8-ounce spray or gel bottle. Order two for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

Magica removes rust stains from ceramics, concrete, fiberglass, etc. It may dull highly polished surfaces such as brass and chrome and some ceramic glazes. Don't use it on glass. It will etch it.

SHOES DON'T FIT MISMATCHED FEET

Q. My feet have very different sizes. My left foot is size 12 and my right foot is 14EEEE. New Balance is the only athletic shoe manufacturer who makes them that large and that wide.

Is there anywhere I can get one pair that fits without having to buy a pair of both sizes?

*Daniel Wilkinson,
Via e-mail*

A. Write to the National Odd Shoe Exchange, P.O. Box 1120, Chandler, AZ 85244-1120, or call 480-892-3484. Include details of the shoe sizes you need. Don't forget to include your name and address.

The nonprofit organization was started in 1943 by Ruth Feldman, whose bout with polio left her with feet that were two different sizes.

Shoe manufacturers, including New Balance, donate shoes which are then distributed to

people who need them. The exchange asks recipients to pay as much as they can toward the cost of the shoe or shoes, but doesn't turn anyone away.

Its main purpose is to help people who need single shoes or people whose feet are significantly different sizes. (It doesn't help people with a half size difference.)

However, the exchange can guarantee that it always has shoes in stock to meet an individual's needs. "We do what we can with what we have," said director Kristina Kelly. And even if it doesn't have anything right now, it will keep you in mind until it does — or until you tell it to stop looking.

Most of the shoes it receives are comfortable, athletic types. Sometimes it gets dress shoes.

In recent years, the National Odd Shoe Exchange has helped people overseas. "We've put shoes on the feet of people in Swaziland and in an orphanage in Romania," Kelly said.

It also accepts donations of new, unworn shoes from the public. Since it's a registered nonprofit organization, donations are tax-deductible.

More information is available on its website, www.oddshoe.org.

RECALL

BEANBAG CHAIRS GETTING RECALLED