



DEODORIZATION

Skunk Odor Removal

INTRODUCTION

Skunk odor is caused by a highly odorous oily secretion that the skunk uses as a defense mechanism. The odor comes from sulfur compounds known as thiols (formerly called mercaptans) and thioacetate derivatives of these thiols. Different species of skunk produce slightly different variations of these compounds. The odor of thiols can be detected in concentrations as low as 10 - 20 parts per trillion!

In order to neutralize the odor of skunk spray, the chemicals in the secretion must be changed to a different type of molecule that does not produce an odor. Oxidizing the thiols forms odorless sulfonic acid. Hydrogen peroxide and chlorine bleach can be used. There is no single remedy for skunk odor. Depending on the surfaces affected, it may require a variety of methods and several steps to remove the odor completely.

Note - The type of surface you are dealing with will determine the procedure and chemicals that you use in removing skunk odor. Not all recommendations are safe on all fabrics. Choose the products and methods suitable for the fabrics you are deodorizing.

Note - Ventilate the area well before, during, and after the deodorization process.

PROCEDURE

Textiles

- **STEP 1**
Remove sources of odor. Items of low value such as some clothing, old blankets, camping gear, etc. are more easily replaced than restored. If appropriate for the fabric, clothing can be soaked in a solution of 1 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water then laundered.
- **STEP 2**
Apply a saturation spray of Hydrocide diluted according to label directions.

- **STEP 3**
Clean carpet or upholstery as usual. The recommended prespray / Extraction combination for carpet is **Zone Perfect** and **End Zone**. Use **Avenge** or **Avenge HD Fabric Prespray** and **Avenge Clean Rinse** on upholstery. If the material received a strong application of skunk spray, boost your prespray with 1 ounce of **Citrus Solv** and 1 ounce of **Boost All** per gallon of water. **Boost All** is a great oxidizer. It can also be added to your rinse water if needed.

- **STEP 4**
Repeat step 2 if required. Rinse.

- **NOTE**
Some items may need to be treated with ozone. This is best accomplished in the controlled environment of an ozone chamber rather than on location.

Hard Surface

- **STEP 1**
Apply a solution of chlorine bleach diluted at one cup per gallon of water to the contaminated area. This can be wiped on or sprayed. Pre-test in an inconspicuous area first. Bleach is harmful to some surfaces and may cause color loss.

For some surfaces you may elect to use what is known as Krebaum's formula - One qt. of 3% hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda and a spoonful of liquid detergent. Boost this with 4 ounces of **Hydrocide**.

- **STEP 2**
Rinse with clear water. You may rinse and extract with a hard surface tool such as an **SX-12** or **Gekko**, where practical.

- **STEP 3**
Repeat these steps as needed.

NOTE - It may be beneficial to install a **Vaportek Deodorization Machine** in the area you are deodorizing. This provides an immediate pleasant fragrance and helps to eliminate odors in the air space. Another option is to use a **Hot Fogger** with Bridgepoint's **Thermal Fog**.

Chemicals Needed



Hydrocide
Type: Premium odor neutralizer
Highlights: Works immediately to bind to and absorb a wide variety of odors.



Zone Perfect
Type: Moderate pH prespray
Highlights: Concentrated prespray suitable for most carpets and compatible with bacteria / enzyme products.



End Zone
Type: Acid side cleaner and rinse agent
Highlights: Packs cleaning power and still leaves the carpet in a neutral state.



Avenge Fabric Prespray or Avenge HD Fabric Prespray
Type: Presprays specifically for upholstery
Highlights: Concentrated bacteria / enzyme formulation that will destroy all types of odor.



Avenge Clean Rinse
Type: Upholstery prespray
Highlights: Rinses away soil and chemical residue; Help prevent bleeding and browning.



Citrus Solv
Type: Concentrated degreaser
Highlights: Cuts through oils and grease and leaves a pleasing fragrance.



Boost All
Type: Powdered Cleaning Additive
Highlights: Color-safe oxidizer helps change odor molecules.



Thermal Fog

Type: *Odor Counteractant for fogging*

Highlights: *Neutralize odors in the air while releasing a pleasing fragrance.*

Accessories Needed



Hydro-Force Injection Sprayer

Description: *Injection Sprayer*

Purpose: *Applies chemicals quickly, evenly and efficiently.*



Hot Fogger

Description: *Fogging Machine*

Purpose: *Creates a dry fog that follows smoke paths and neutralizes the odor.*



TWBS Sprayer

Description: *Pump Sprayer*

Purpose: *Pump Sprayer with heavy-duty parts that are completely re-buildable and are fully viton-fitted.*



Respirator and Cartridges

Description: *Respirator*

Purpose: *Protects your technicians from solvents and problem chemicals. Protects yourself from liability.*



Splash Proof Safety Goggles

Description: *Eye protection*

Purpose: *Protects eyes from chemical splashing or spilling.*



Chemical Resistant Gloves

Description: *Hand protection*

Purpose: *Protects hands from chemical splashing or spilling.*

Equipment Needed



Truck Mount

Description: *Hot water extraction machine.*

Purpose: *Unit provides necessary heat, pressure and vacuum to obtain desired results.*



Olympus Portable Extractor

Description: *Portable Extractor*

Purpose: *Portable unit that extracts water and chemical from carpet or upholstery.*



Vaportek Deodorizing Machine

Description: *Odor Neutralizer*

Purpose: *Vaportek odor control systems safely provide immediate odor neutralization in situations where other methods may fail.*

HELPFUL HINTS

— If your dog is sprayed by a skunk, bathe the animal in a mixture of one quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide, and 1/4 cup of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) and a spoonful of neutral detergent. Give five minutes of dwell time and rinse the animal thoroughly with water. Repeat as needed. Understand that peroxide can lighten the color of the animal's coat. Tomato juice does not work. It only seems to work because your olfactory nerves are de-sensitized because of prolonged exposure to the skunk odor. Everyone else can still smell the skunk. If a skunk has taken up residence in an unwanted area, install a large bright light and leave it on for a couple of days. That will most likely drive the skunk away.



CAUTION

— Exercise common sense when using these products and procedures. Some of the chemicals may be hazardous when used improperly and can cause health problems for the user.



Quick Guide



PROCEDURE

- 1 Remove sources of odor.
- 2 Apply **Hydrocide**.
- 3 Clean using appropriate agents
- 4 Repeat **Hydrocide** application if necessary.
5. Use **Ozone** or **Vaportek** if needed.

PRODUCTS NEEDED

- Hydrocide
- Zone Perfect
- End Zone
- Avenge Fabric Prespray
- Avenge HD Fabric Prespray
- Avenge Clean Rinse
- Citrus Solv
- Boost All
- Thermal Fog
- Hydro-Force Injection Sprayer
- TWBS Pump Sprayer
- Hot Fogger
- Truck Mount
- Olympus Portable Extractor
- Vaportek Odor Control System
- Respirator & Cartridges
- Splash proof goggles
- Solvent Resistant Gloves

Other Resources

Bridgepoint Catalog
Bridgepoint's manual Successful Urine Decontamination, Odor and Stain Removal
Bridgepoint Carpet Cleaning Manual
IICRC Odor Control Class
Bridgepoint Website www.bridgepoint.com
Your local Bridgepoint or Interlink Supply distributor