Ask Jon Eakes

Removing stains from linoleum

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Ania removed a pedestal sink that had been kept stable with a cedar shim and now she wants to know how to get rid of the stain the cedar has left on her linoleum floor. The bad news is that, if it is really linoleum and not vinyl, linoleum is more porous than vinyl and stains can go deeper. The ultimate cleaner for both vinyl and linoleum (be careful because it is not only flammable but it can also dissolve some floors) is lighter fluid. If that doesn't work, you may want to consider cutting out the bad tiles and replacing them with contrasting new tiles. Or, on a sheet floor, you can design a contrasting new patch that will accent the pedestal and look like a decor accent, not a patch. Decor camouflage is often the best cleaner.

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