

# Does WD-40 Remove Chewing Gum? Try This Cleaning Hack

- Explore this Article ■ Will WD-40 actually remove chewing gum?  
 ■ How do you get chewing gum out of carpet with WD-40?  
 ■ How do you remove chewing gum from shoes with WD-40?  
 ■ How do you use WD-40 to get chewing gum out of clothes?  
 ■ Can you use WD-40 to get gum out of hair? ■ Expert Q&A ■ Tips and Warnings ■ References

Co-authored by Raymond Chiu 🌱, Kyle Hall , and 4 contributors

Last Updated: January 17, 2022

Gum is great until it's matted in your hair, stuck to the bottom of your shoe, or smushed into your expensive rug. There are all kinds of gum-removal hacks out there, and one you may have seen floating around is WD-40. Does using WD-40 to remove gum actually work though? We're here to answer all of your questions and help you get to the bottom of it.

## Question 1

### Question 1 of 5: Will WD-40 actually remove chewing gum?



**1 Yes, it really does work.** The household staple used to lubricate squeaky doors, loosen stuck screws, and protect tools from rust can also be used to remove stubborn gum (it's even listed as one of the best uses for WD-40 on the official WD-40 website).[1] Whether you're dealing with gum stuck to carpet, the bottom of your shoes, your favorite shirt, or even your hair, WD-40 may be able to help.

- Gum is hydrophobic, meaning it doesn't dissolve in water. The best way to dissolve something that's hydrophobic is to mix it with something else that's also hydrophobic.[2] That's where the WD-40 comes in.[3]

**Question 2 of 5:**  
**How do you get chewing gum out of carpet with WD-40?**



- 1** **Spray the gum with a liberal amount of WD-40.** Stick the spray nozzle into the carpet fibers so you're spraying right where the gum and carpet meet.<sup>[4]</sup>



- 2** **Let it soak in for 5-10 minutes.** This will give the WD-40 time to work its magic.<sup>[5]</sup>



**3 Wipe up the gum with a rag.** Alternatively, use a scrub brush to gently scrub the gum out of the carpet. Wipe or scrub in one direction so you're not pushing the gum deeper into the carpet fibers.<sup>[6]</sup>

- You may need to repeat the process more than once to get all of the gum out. Continue spraying, waiting, and scrubbing until your carpet is gum-free!
- You can even freeze the chewing gum by placing an ice cube on it.<sup>[7]</sup>
- Then gently scrape it with a butter knife.<sup>[8]</sup>



**4 Clean the area with a detergent or degreaser.** This will get rid of any oily residue leftover from the WD-40.<sup>[9]</sup> Use a sponge and warm water to work the cleaner into the carpet until there's no more stain.<sup>[10]</sup>



### Question 3 of 5:

How do you remove chewing gum from shoes with WD-40?



- 1 Spray the gum with WD-40.** Completely saturate it.<sup>[11]</sup> Just don't get any WD-40 on the fabric part of your shoe—that could actually stain it. This method is best for those times when you've stepped in some gum and it's stuck to the bottom of your shoe.<sup>[12]</sup>



- 2 Let it soak in for 1 minute.** Give the WD-40 some time to dissolve the gum. This makes your job after easier.<sup>[13]</sup>

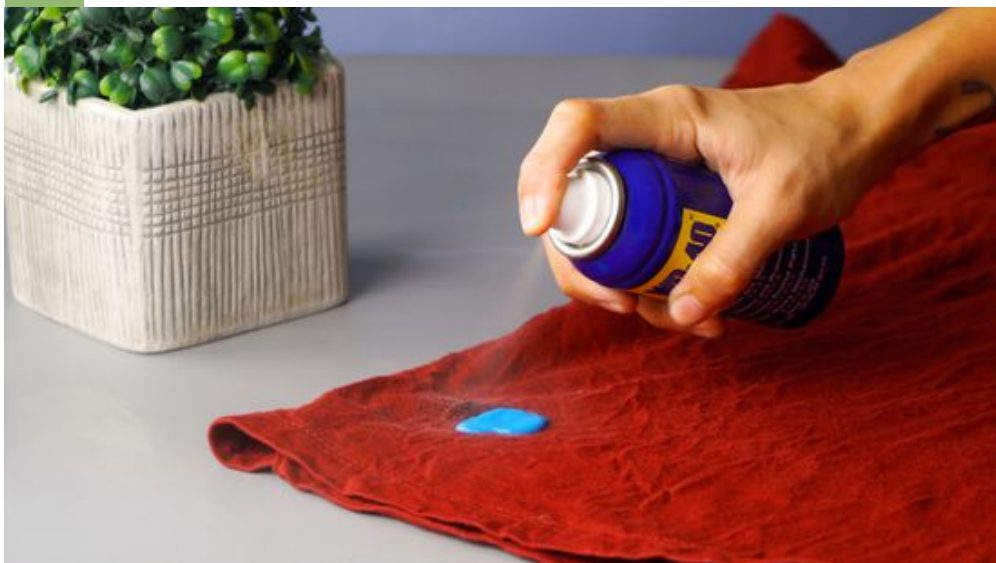


**3 Wipe the gum away.** Use a rag to gently wipe the gum off the bottom of your shoe. It should come right off!<sup>[14]</sup> If it doesn't, apply more WD-40 and wait another minute before trying again.<sup>[15]</sup>

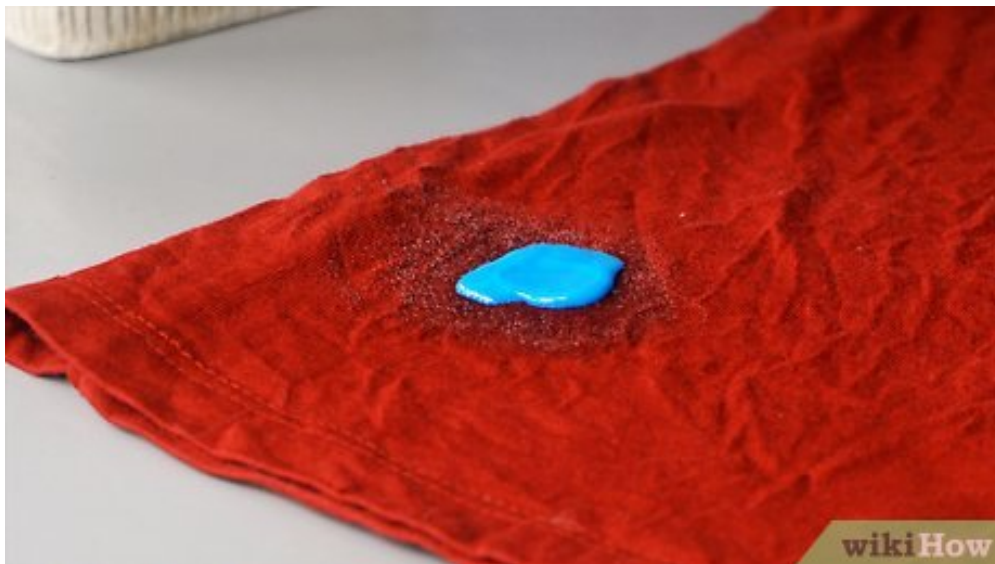
- Wipe off the bottom of your shoe with a clean rag when you're finished to remove any excess WD-40 residue.

Question  
4

#### Question 4 of 5: How do you use WD-40 to get chewing gum out of clothes?



**1 Spray WD-40 onto the gum.** <sup>[16]</sup> If you're working with delicate fabric like satin, silk, or cashmere, try a [different gum-removal method](#). WD-40 might damage delicates and leave you with a worse mess to deal with.<sup>[17]</sup>



**2 Let it sit for a few minutes.** Give the WD-40 time to start breaking up the gum so it's nice and easy to get off.<sup>[18]</sup>



**3 Gently scrape away the gum with a blunt knife.** Don't reach for a sharp kitchen knife —a blunt knife is best here so you don't accidentally cut the fabric. Use the knife to scrape up as much gum as possible. Repeat a few more times if needed.<sup>[19]</sup>



**4 Wash your clothing.** Apply some liquid detergent to the area and machine wash the garment like usual. Once it's done washing, any stains left by the WD-40 should be gone!<sup>[20]</sup>



**Question 5 of 5:**  
**Can you use WD-40 to get gum out of hair?**



- 1** **Yes, just spray the part of your hair where the gum is stuck.** Work in a well-ventilated area and be careful not to spray any in your eyes! [21]



- 2** **Gently comb out the gum.** It should easily come out now thanks to the WD-40. [22] You may need to do this a few times if the gum is really stuck in there. [23]



**3 Wash your hair.** This will get out any leftover WD-40 residue. Now your hair should be clean and gum-free!<sup>[24]</sup>



## Expert Q&A

### Question

**How can I harden the chewing gum to remove it?**



**Raymond Chiu**  
House Cleaning  
Professional  
Expert Answer

Place an ice cube on the chewing gum for a few minutes until it hardens. You can even spray compressed air on it.

Helpful ☐ Not Helpful ☐

### Question

**What can I do to remove chewing gum from furniture?**



**Raymond Chiu**  
House Cleaning  
Professional  
Expert Answer

Freeze the chewing gum. Then scrape it gently with a butter knife. After that, use a solvent to clean the remaining stains.

Helpful ☐ Not Helpful ☐



## Tips

- Looking for more gum-removal hacks? Check out all of our [gum-removal articles](#).



## References

1. ↑ <https://wd40.co.uk/tips-and-tricks/uses-for-wd40/>
2. ↑ <http://scienceline.ucsb.edu/getkey.php?key=2036>
3. ↑ <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-remove-gum-from-carpet/>
4. ↑ <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-remove-gum-from-carpet/>
5. ↑ <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-remove-gum-from-carpet/>
6. ↑ <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-remove-gum-from-carpet/>
7. ↑ Raymond Chiu. House Cleaning Professional. Expert Interview. 15 October 2019.
8. ↑ Raymond Chiu. House Cleaning Professional. Expert Interview. 15 October 2019.
9. ↑ <https://spotremoval.coit.com/how-to-get-gum-out-from-carpet>
10. ↑ Raymond Chiu. House Cleaning Professional. Expert Interview. 15 October 2019.
11. ↑ <https://youtu.be/W6h07iMn6f0?t=57>
12. ↑ <https://wd40.co.uk/tips-and-tricks/how-to-remove-chewing-gum-from-shoes/>
13. ↑ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=62&v=W6h07iMn6f0&feature=youtu.be>
14. ↑ <https://youtu.be/W6h07iMn6f0?t=66>
15. ↑ <https://wd40.co.uk/tips-and-tricks/how-to-remove-chewing-gum-from-shoes/>
16. ↑ <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/household-advice/a683303/5-surprising-uses-for-wd-40/>
17. ↑ <https://www.cleanipedia.com/gb/laundry/how-to-remove-glue-from-clothes.html>
18. ↑ <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/household-advice/a683303/5-surprising-uses-for-wd-40/>
19. ↑ <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/household-advice/a683303/5-surprising-uses-for-wd-40/>
20. ↑ <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/household-advice/a683303/5-surprising-uses-for-wd-40/>
21. ↑ <https://www.readersdigest.ca/home-garden/tips/5-more-things-do-wd-40/>
22. ↑ <https://www.readersdigest.ca/home-garden/tips/5-more-things-do-wd-40/>
23. ↑ <https://www.thepennyhoarder.com/save-money/wd40-uses/>
24. ↑ <https://wd40.in/wd-40-uses-at-home/16-problems-that-can-be-solved-with-wd-40/>

## About This Article



Co-authored by:  
**Raymond Chiu**  
House Cleaning  
Professional

This article was co-authored by [Raymond Chiu](#) and by wikiHow staff writer, [Kyle Hall](#). Raymond Chiu is the Director of Operations for MaidSailors.com, a residential and commercial cleaning service based in New York City that provides home and office cleaning services at affordable prices. He has a Bachelors in Business Administration and Management from Baruch College. This article has been viewed 1,638 times.

Co-authors: **4**

Updated: **January 17, 2022**

Views: **1,638**

Categories: [Home Appliances](#)

<https://www.wikihow.com/Does-Wd-40-Remove-Chewing-Gum>

The text and visual content in this PDF is intended only for your personal, non-commercial use. Any commercial reproduction of the contents of this document without the express written permission of wikiHow, Inc., is prohibited.