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## Smoke Stains on Plaster Can be Removed

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Smoke stains on plaster walls near chimneys are a real problem, but most of these stains can be removed or covered. Don't paint straight over smoke stains because they often "bleed" through new paint.

The stains should be removed or neutralized before painting. Most smoke stains can be removed by scrubbing lightly with a solution of washing soda—about 6 oz to a gallon of water—or one of the proprietary cleaners stocked by paint shops.

Lime water—rock lime (quicklime) slaked in water—is also very effective in many cases. For reasonable cost and effectiveness the well-known sugar-soap type cleaner (sold under various trade names) is hard to beat.

Rinse the surface with clean water after treatment—especially if you have used lime water or washing soda solutions.

Severe smoke stains require more than one application of the cleaning solution; ingrained stains not removed require sealing.

Stain "bleed" through paint can be stopped by first covering the stain with a special anti-tar paint; this method is suitable for tar, creosote and similar stains. Shellac varnish or aluminium paint also can be used, but the anti-tar paint is a primer as well as a sealer.

The wall surface must be allowed to dry thoroughly before any of the sealers are applied.

### Water Stains

Water stains, which often appear on plaster ceilings after rain, can be treated the same way as smoke stains. Rain stains are caused when mud soaks through the plaster leaving an unsightly brown stain. The mud is formed when rain water leaks through the roof and mixes with dust on the ceiling plaster sheets. The dampness associated with the stain causes paint to flake and peel.

Before you begin to repaint or treat water stains make sure that roof leaks have been repaired. It is a good idea to cover ceiling joists with aluminium foil-covered building paper. This paper insulates against heat and cold as well as catching water from leaks that may develop.

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## Death of Mrs Annie Blakeney

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The people of Coraki lost a well loved and respected friend late last September when Mrs Annie Blakeney died after a long illness in the Campbell Hospital, Coraki.

Mr E. R. Leggo, supervisor at Coraki, wrote to *Dawn* about Mrs Blakeney. "She was a very fine old lady," Mr Leggo said, "and was well loved and respected by her own people and the people in Coraki. Her disposition was such that all who came into contact with her found her very easy to get along with and she was always bright and happy.

"I doubt if her correct age is known, but it is estimated at 72 years. She was a full-blood of the old school but was ready to listen to new ideas and did not condemn them without at least talking about them first.

"I feel the loss of Mrs Blakeney very much indeed. She was always ready to talk with me and used to ask me many questions.

"All I can say is that with her passing, this Reserve and town have lost a friend."