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DE-SKUNKING YOUR DOG

Uh oh! Does your dog smell ... well ... strange? If you catch an immediate whiff of burnt rubber, garlic and/or rotten eggs, your dog's been skunked. When skunks are frightened or feel threatened, they will emit a foul-smelling spray that clings to everything it touches. And unlike other contaminants, this unpleasant substance can't be eradicated from pet fur, clothing or inanimate objects with just soap and water. But don't panic! Here's how you can help your dog smell fresh as a daisy.

As soon as you sense something's wrong, you'll need to act fast! The longer the stench stays on your dog, the more time it has to settle into their skin, making removal even more difficult.

Step 1: Set Boundaries

Once your dog has been sprayed, they will instinctually try to ease the pain by wiping the scent away. To prevent your pup from rubbing up against your sofa or rolling around your carpet, keep them outside.

Step 2: Sop Up the Stink

Try to identify where your dog has been skunked. Then, soak up the offensive oils as best as you can by dabbing the affected area with [paper towel](#) or [disposable rags](#).

Step 3: Prepare Your Preferred Solution

While many people believe anything from mouthwash to beer baths will subdue the foul fragrance, very few of these solutions actually work. However, there are three tried-and-true methods that have been proven to remove this putrid stench from both pets and humans.

TIP: Before you start covering your dog in one of these concoctions, make sure you protect your hands with [latex gloves](#). This will prevent the odor from transferring to your skin.

Option #1 - Tomato Juice

Although tomato juice is not the most effective method, it easily dispels the smell from smaller, more contained areas (like the head or tail). After dousing your dog in warm water, apply a thick mix of [tomato paste](#) and [tomato juice](#) to their coat with a [sponge](#). Then, allow it to soak into your pup's fur for 10-20 minutes.

Option #2 - White Vinegar

Did you know that [white vinegar](#) relieves many common canine ailments? Acidic by nature, white vinegar can treat skin infections, soothe bug bites and even eliminate rancid smells. First, spray your dog down with water. Then, add diluted white vinegar (1 part vinegar with 2 parts water) underneath your pet's fur. Let the treatment sit for 10 minutes.

Option #3 - A Successful Recipe

Recommended by both the ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States, the best de-skunking solution can actually be made with items found in your own kitchen. While your dog enjoys a nice soak in a [tub](#) of tepid water, compile all the necessary ingredients nearby. In an [open container](#), combine 1 quart of [hydrogen peroxide](#), 1/4 cup of [baking soda](#) and 1 teaspoon of [Dawn® liquid dish soap](#). Work the solution until a thick foam forms. Then, massage the mixture deep into your dog's fur, leaving it on their coat for no more than 5 minutes.

WARNING: DO NOT make this mixture ahead of time or attempt to store it in a concealed container! When sealed, this chemical compound could result in an explosion.

Step 4: Rinse & Shampoo

Once the allotted time is up, rinse your furry friend off with the garden hose. Avoiding their eyes, ears and mouth, remove every last trace of your chosen solution from their skin. And, since moisture can reactivate the stink, you'll want to slather some shampoo on your dog too. While [traditional dog shampoo](#) will work well in this instance, we suggest sudsing up your pup with [pH-balanced shampoo](#) just as an additional precaution. Continue to rinse and repeat if needed.

Step 5: Time to Dry

Now that your dog smells squeaky clean, dry them off. With a towel in hand, wring as much water as you can from your dog's fur. When they're somewhat dry, you can comb through their damp coat with a [slicker brush](#). This brush will not only unsnarl matted tufts of fur, but it will also release any residual skunk stink. And finally, welcome your pet back inside! Create a safe space for them to lay by placing a clean towel in a warm sunny spot, allowing them to naturally dry off.

Article by: Marisa Christiano

Information for reference only. Items and availability may vary.

FEATURED PRODUCTS



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