

SSDCL02 Spotter / Stain Treatment Specialist

Disclaimer

These Occupational Frameworks and Skill Profiles have been developed as workforce planning, occupational mapping and skills reference resources for the Australian textile, clothing and footwear (TCF) industry. They are intended to describe the typical functions, responsibilities, skills and capabilities associated with occupations across the industry.

These documents are not intended to replace or override industrial instruments or employment arrangements, including awards, enterprise agreements, employment contracts, position descriptions, classification structures, licensing or regulatory requirements, or other statutory obligations. Where differences arise, the relevant industrial, legislative or regulatory requirements take precedence. The Skill Profiles should be used as complementary reference documents to support workforce planning, career development, training and skills recognition.

1. Job role

TCF sub-sector	Dry Cleaning and Laundry Services
Functional area	Garment Processing
Job role	SSDCL02 Spotter / Stain Removal Specialist
Job role description	Performs specialised stain identification and removal processes including spotting, chemical treatment and controlled stain extraction techniques to achieve high-quality outcomes while preserving fabric integrity. In the Australian dry cleaning industry—where operations must comply with workplace health, safety and environmental requirements—the Spotter applies detailed knowledge of textiles, stain chemistry and chemical interactions to ensure garments meet quality standards, production requirements and customer expectations.
Performance expectations	- Assessing garments to identify stain types, fabric composition and treatment requirements. - Selecting appropriate spotting techniques and chemicals based on stain classification and fabric sensitivity. - Performing stain removal processes to achieve effective outcomes while minimising fabric risk. - Maintaining garment integrity, colour stability and structural condition during treatment. - Ensuring compliance with workplace health, safety and chemical handling requirements. - Meeting production timelines and supporting efficient garment processing workflows. - Maintaining accurate garment identification and handling throughout the spotting process. - Contributing to continuous improvement in stain removal effectiveness and process efficiency.

Specialisation	Advanced stain removal, delicate fabrics, leather and suede, colour-sensitive garments, high-value garment care, restoration textiles, technical textiles, sustainable cleaning methods.
Application in other Textile, Clothing and Footwear (TCF) sectors	- Commercial laundry and linen services supporting advanced stain removal in large-scale textile cleaning operations. - Textile manufacturing and finishing supporting chemical treatment processes for stain and defect removal. - Apparel production and garment finishing supporting stain correction and garment quality control. - Technical textile and specialty cleaning services supporting specialised stain treatment for performance and high-value textiles. - Textile restoration services supporting targeted stain removal in damaged garments and textiles. - Leather and suede processing supporting specialised stain treatment of non-standard materials. - Manufacturing and processing industries supporting chemical treatment and quality correction processes.

2. Key tasks and critical work functions

Key tasks	- Inspecting garments to identify stain types, fabric characteristics and treatment requirements. - Classifying stains based on origin and composition. - Selecting appropriate spotting agents, tools and techniques. - Applying spotting chemicals and processes in a controlled manner. - Neutralising and flushing treated areas to prevent residue or damage. - Monitoring garment response and adjusting treatment processes - Maintaining spotting workstations and tools. - Following workplace health, safety and chemical handling procedures.
Critical work functions	- Identifying stains accurately and determining appropriate treatment methods. - Handling chemicals safely to prevent damage to fabrics and dyes. - Maintaining garment quality and avoiding discolouration or shrinkage. - Managing workflow to support production efficiency. - Ensuring compliance with workplace health, safety and environmental requirements. - Coordinating with cleaning and finishing teams.

3. Technical skills

Stain identification	Identifying stain types and origins to determine suitable treatment methods.
Spotting techniques	Applying specialised stain removal techniques using appropriate tools and chemicals.
Chemical handling	Handling spotting agents safely in accordance with regulations.
Fabric knowledge	Understanding textile fibres, dyes and finishes during treatment processes.

Colour fastness assessment	Assessing dye stability to prevent colour damage during spotting.
Tool usage	Using spotting boards, steam guns and equipment effectively.
Quality control	Inspecting garments post-treatment to ensure quality outcomes.

4. Generic Skills

Attention to detail	Ensuring accuracy in stain identification and treatment.
Problem solving	Resolving complex stain removal challenges.
Communication	Communicating garment issues with team members.
Teamwork	Working collaboratively across production teams.
Time management	Managing workload to meet production deadlines.
Safety awareness	Applying safe practices in chemical handling.
Adaptability	Responding to varied garment types and challenges.

5. Emerging skills

Emerging skills	- Adopting sustainable stain removal methods using environmentally preferred chemicals. - Applying advanced techniques for modern synthetic and blended fabrics. - Using digital garment tracking systems to manage workflow. - Implementing safer chemical alternatives and reduced solvent processes. - Handling specialised performance textiles. - Integrating environmentally responsible practices into operations.
-----------------	--

6. VET Qualifications and Skill Sets

Entry-level preparation	MST20422 Certificate II in Laundry Operations and/or MST30922 Certificate III in Dry Cleaning Operations, supported by work health and safety (WHS) training.
Advanced development	MST30622 Certificate III in Laundry Operations or related field with specialised stain removal training.

7. Job progression

Possible job progression	Spotter → Senior Spotter → Stain Removal Specialist → Production Supervisor → Production Manager.
--------------------------	---

8. Classification

Australian Qualifications Framework	AQF Level 3.
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Skill Levels	Skill Level 5.
Open Source Classification of Occupations for Australia (OSCA)	811331 Dry Cleaner.



Skills Insight is a Jobs and Skills Council funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.