

Dear AV Dept,

Got an issue this morning where a professor wrote all over the whiteboard with a permanent marker.

Seems to me there is a pen on the market that can get rid of these stains.

Does anyone know what that product is called. I saw it at INFOCOMM three years ago.

In the meantime, what do I do to get the board white again?

Thanks,

Emily

Dear Emily,

Here is a fix that we tried with some success after others failed. Be warned, however, that white boards and markers all vary by manufacturer, so not every cure will be the same.

After the usual scrubbing with 409, Simple Green, rubbing alcohol, acetone, Goof Off, PEC-12, etc. didn't remove a particularly stubborn marker, we resorted to a rag moistened with starter fluid. Yes, here in Michigan, we occasionally need that sort of thing to get our cars moving in the morning. You folks in California or Arizona may be hard pressed to find such a product. Be advised that this is a highly combustible compound which is often incorrectly called ether and as such should not be used in a small, closed area.

The stuff evaporates quickly and strips all oils from the surface as well as the ink. This can cause the dry erase pens to become difficult to erase unless some "release" surface is restored. A light misting of WD-40 followed by a good buffing of the surface usually restores the board to acceptable condition.

Sincerely,

The AV Dept.