

*"The greatest discovery of my generation is that man can alter his life simply by altering his attitude..."*

-- William James



**Spirit Encounters Soft Ground on Mars**

**Credit:** [Mars Exploration Rover Mission](#), [JPL](#), [NASA](#)

**Explanation:** Will Spirit be able to free itself from soft ground on Mars? The [robotic Spirit rover](#) currently rolling across [Mars](#) ran into unexpectedly soft ground last month while exploring the red planet. A worry is that the [ground is so soft](#) that Spirit won't be able to free itself, will have to stay put and thereafter study what it can from its current position near an unusual martian land feature named [Home Plate](#). [Pictured above](#), the front left wheel appears to be primarily digging itself in when [spun](#), while on the other side, the front right wheel no longer spins and is dragged by the five year old [mechanical explorer](#). In the distance, rocks and rusty dirt fill the [alien landscape](#) in front of the distant [Husband Hill](#). NASA continues to study [the situation](#), and engineers and scientists have not yet run out of ideas of how to use Spirit's six wheels. Far across Mars, Spirit's twin [Opportunity](#) continues on its two year [trek](#) toward [Endeavour crater](#).

## deterge

\dih-TURJ   
verb

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## Meaning

: to wash off : to cleanse

## Example Sentence

In order to prevent infection, it is necessary to properly deterge and disinfect the wound.

## Did you know?

"Deterge" is not a particularly common word in the English language. However, it is related to a word with which most of us are likely familiar: "detergent." Like "detergent," "deterge" comes (possibly by way of French "déterger") from the Latin verb "detergēre," itself from "de-" and "tergēre" ("to wipe"). "Deterge" entered the English language in the early 1600s and has primarily been used in medical contexts, such as Ambrose Cooper's 1757 recipe for Vulnerary Water: "This Water is of excellent Service in Contusions, Tumors attending Dislocation, Fractures and Mortifications, the Part affected being bathed with it. Some also use it to deterge foul Ulcers, and incarn Wounds...."

\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.

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Best Regards,

**Ron Van Alstyne**

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