

Clothing Care

Laundry Sorting

Everyone has favorite clothes that they wear more often than others. It's frustrating when clothes you want to wear are in the laundry hamper waiting to be cleaned.

Knowing the skills of laundry care will help you take care of your clothes. That means that your clothes will be ready to wear when you want them.

Learning how to sort the laundry is one of the first steps in clothing care. "Sorting" is where you group similar items for washing by the care needed. You sort laundry to separate clothing which could cause damage to other garments. Have you ever had white socks turn pink? This happens when a red and white garment are washed together.

Sorting Laundry...

How do you sort clothes? You combine items of a similar color, fabric type, garment construction, and amount of soil into groups that are suitable for the washer. These are some general guidelines for sorting laundry:



Color:

White items should generally be separated from colored garments. If the light-colored prints or pastel-colored items are colorfast, it is all right to combine them with white clothes. A *colorfast* fabric retains its original color without fading or running.

Dark colors and very bright colors should be washed separately or combined with only items of similar color. Combining whites with bright or dark colors might result in *color transfer*. Color transferred to other items in the laundry may result in damage to the garment which cannot be fixed. Items which are not colorfast may need to be washed separately.

Blue jeans, sweatshirts, and dark socks often fade in the laundry. It is important to wash them with items of similar color.



A silk tank top
is a **DELICATE**.

Fabric:

Some fabrics require special care. Delicate, less sturdy fabrics should be separated from other items (examples: loose knits, very sheer items, lace or delicate items). You probably would not want to wash a silk shirt with blue jeans.



Lint Giver!

Lint:

Lint can be a problem when doing laundry. Certain fabrics are lint receivers such as polyester, nylon, and corduroy, while other fabrics are lint givers (terrycloth, flannel, sweatshirt fleece). If you do not separate lint givers from lint takers you will have balls of lint on your clothes.



A very dirty
t-shirt!

Soil:

Very dirty clothes (also called heavily soiled) should be separated from the rest of the wash to keep dirt from transferring to other items in the laundry.



This coat is a
BULKY ITEM.

Size:

Very large, bulky items may need to be washed alone. Jackets, blankets, and bedspreads are often so large that they need a separate wash load.

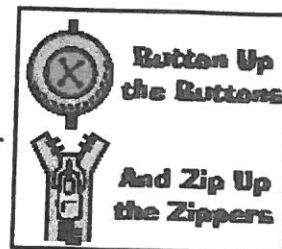
If it is possible, you may do two loads of laundry instead of four if you have similar garments. The most important thing to remember is that you want clothes to come as clean as possible in the laundry while keeping their size, shape, and color. Permanent damage can result from not properly sorting your laundry. Make sure to always sort your clothes properly before doing your laundry.

Washing Clothes...

Now that we know how to sort our clothes, what are other important things about doing laundry do you need to know? Below are some good guidelines on how to do your laundry.

The steps in washing your clothing are:

- ! sort clothing into "like" piles;
- ! check clothing carefully for "things" in pockets or a stain;
- ! zip zippers, button buttons;
- ! read laundry product labels and use recommended amount;
- ! fill washing machine, add laundry products;
- ! add clothing to be washed, do not overload;
- ! remove clothing promptly to prevent wrinkling; and
- ! put you clothing in the dryer or line dry it.

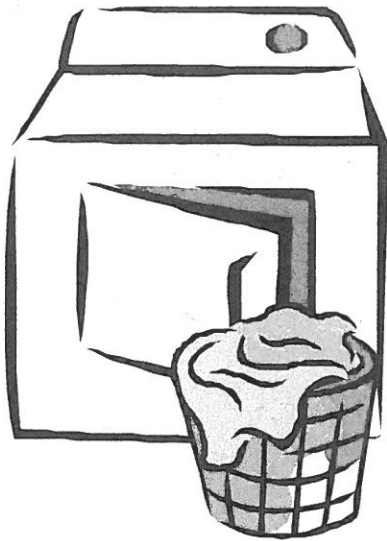


Folding...

Proper storage of clothing is important to prolong its life and for it to be ready to wear. Hand clean clothing that has been laundered or folded carefully before storing in a drawer to eliminate wrinkles. If placed on hangers for storage



remember to button garment (at least every other button) and zip zippers. Be sure the garment is on the appropriate hanger and is centered on the hanger. To minimize wrinkling, do not crowd clothing into a closet or drawer.



Clothing Care

Stain Removal

The care of clothing usually depends on the fiber from which it is made. Typically fibers are divided into two categories: washable and dry-cleanable.

Washable Fibers: cotton, polyester, nylon, spandex, rayon and acrylics are considered to be washable fibers. However, in the completed garment, the dyes, trims, interfacings and finishes may affect the care the garment needs. You should always read the care label in determining the care that a garment needs.

Dry Cleanable Fibers: Wool, silk, linen and acetate are usually dry cleanable fibers. Wool, silk and acetate become very weak in water, so are usually labeled as dry-clean. Linen wrinkles a great deal when washed, so it also is usually labeled dry clean.

Knowing where the fabric is washable or not will certainly affect the care of the garment. In the Junior and Intermediate Levels you have learned most of the laundry procedures and products. One of the most important laundry care activities is taking care or treating stains. Let's take a closer look at what we need to know.

Stain Removal

Ruining your favorite shirt by spilling ink on it is never a good thing. If you know how to properly launder your clothes you may be able to wear your favorite shirt many more times.

Stain removal is one of the biggest problems in the care of clothing. Stains need to be treated and removed before laundering, since washing sometimes will "set" the stain. Be aware there are some stains that cannot be removed.

Today, it is important to extend the clothing dollar and to save on the use of energy. Learning to promptly and correctly remove stains will result in fewer garments that will need to be discarded.

Care of Dry Cleanable Garments:

Some garments require drycleaning, as indicated on your care label. Here are a few care instructions for these clothing items.

- < Always brush these garments after wearing.
- < Remove wrinkles and freshen by hanging in the bathroom while you take a hot shower.
- < Check garments for stains, rips or tears, missing buttons, etc. before taking to the cleaners.
- < Always tell your drycleaner about any stains. The drycleaner needs to know

Stain Removal Steps :

- € Identify the stain.
- ⊘ Identify fiber content of garment.
- ∠ Treat immediately (fresh stains are easier to remove).
- ∇ Blot or scrape off excess stain.
- ® Use a soft white cloth or white paper towel under the stain to serve as a blotter.
- © Place right side of garment to blotter.
- ™ Work on the wrong side of the stain to push it *out*.
- ▢ Sponge lightly with a clean, soft, white cloth.
- √ Frequently move to a clean area on the blotter.
- Work on a small area, using a gentle brushing motion, from the center outward.

If Using a Stain Remover Product Be Sure to:

ε Follow directions for using the stain remover.

ε Test stain remover product on an inside seam, hem or facing. Be sure that it does not change the fabric's color or damage the

Never use hot water on an unknown stain.
Take garment to your drycleaner if the stain is large or stubborn.

Stain Identification:

An important factor in being able to remove a stain is in knowing what the stain is.

- < Smell it and try to identify the odor.
- < Look at its color and appearance.
- < Feel it to check the texture.

Unidentified Stains:

What can you do if you have a stain that you cannot identify? Sometimes you can remove this "unknown stain." Listed below are the steps to try:

1. Soak stain in cold water for at least half an hour.
2. Rub detergent (liquid or paste of granular) into stained area. Let stand at least half an hour. Rinse.
3. Launder, using bleach (if care label indicates garment can be bleached).
4. Soak in a pre-soak the recommended amount of time.
5. Use hottest water possible (check care label) and launder. Line dry garment.
6. If stain remains, sponge with stain remover. Rinse, launder.
7. As a last resort, try a color or rust remover.

Rings from Stain Removal:

After attempting to remove a stain, a "ring" may appear around the area. Light- and solid-colored and smooth fabrics "ring" most frequently. It is caused by:

- < a residue from the stain.
- < an accumulation of fabric finishes that move out as the solvent spreads along the yarns.

You can prevent the ring from forming by:

- < using the stain remover sparingly
- < frequently moving the garment to a dry, clean spot on the blotter.

If a ring appears, brush lightly from center out.

Mystery Stains!

Have you ever had the experience of spots showing up on a garment after removing them from the dryer or from storage? The following are reasons for "invisible stains":

- < When fruit juices, sugared coffee or tea, or soft drinks are spilled on a garment, they may dry and disappear. However, the sugar is in the fabric. Heat causes the sugars to become a yellowish/brownish stain. Remember to flush these spills quickly with cold water if the garment is washable.
- < A greasy stain (like mayonnaise), particularly on a polyester garment when activated by heat, will appear much like a sugar stain (yellowish-brown).
- < Pouring liquid detergent or fabric softener directly onto clothing without diluting.

REMEMBER:

- ¢ Always follow product directions.
- ¢ Read care labels on garments.
- ¢ Treat stains immediately.
- ¢ Realize that some stains cannot be removed.