



# Laundering

## 1. Why is it important to read the labels in garments before laundering them?

The label is the manufacturer's advice as to the best method of caring for the garment. If followed, it should ensure that the garment maintains its size, colour, shape, fit and texture. Giving attention to these instructions will give the following:

Garments will maintain a fresh appearance longer.

Colour fading will be minimized.

Damage to fabric from laundering will be reduced.

The useful life of fabric will be extended, making your money go farther

## 2. What is the proper way to prepare clothes for washing?

When preparing clothes for washing, you will first need to separate according to colours, (e.g. dark colours together and light colours together). Then you should sort out the soiled garments, treat stains before placing in machine. You should pay attention to the manufacturer's guidance.

## 3. What types of clothes should be washed in hot, warm, and cold water?

Hot water is great for whites, colourfast items, and heavily soiled clothes or clothes with greasy stains.

Warm water works for permanent press and other 100-percent synthetic fibres, blends of natural and synthetic fibres and moderately soiled items.

Cold water will keep most colourfast clothes from running and minimize the shrinking of washable woollens. Cold water is also good for lightly soiled clothing and clothes stained with blood, wine or coffee.

## 4. What precaution should be used when using chlorine bleach? What are the advantages of powdered oxygen bleach? Why should chlorine bleach and ammonia never be mixed?

If chlorine bleach is suitable to be used on garments ensure that you follow the manufacture's instructions regarding the use. Wear gloves and add to water before placing garments.

### Advantages of Powdered Oxygen Bleach

- Oxygen bleach is effective in getting rid of stubborn dirt and organic stains without having to use toxic and hazardous materials like chlorine bleach.
- They can be used on carpet, upholstery and even the most delicate linens (except for some types of wool and silk) without harming the fabric. They are also sold as environmentally friendly cleaners that are not that effective, oxygen bleaches really do work and for some stains even do a better job than traditional bleaches or cleaners.
- Better long term shelf stability than liquid hydrogen peroxide products
- Acts as a disinfectant on both bacteria and viruses likely to be encountered in the home
- Brightens fabrics
- Oxygen bleaches can be mixed or used with other household cleaners
- Non-toxic to animals, plants and humans.

- Very environmentally friendly as they break down into natural soda ash and/or borax after the oxygen is released

Mixing chlorine bleach and ammonia releases a toxic gas. NOTE: The fumes, depending on the amount of product used, can result in eye, throat, and nose irritations as well as breathing difficulty. Products should never be mixed unless specific instructions do so are found on the product label

### **5. What precautions should be taken when using fabric softeners?**

The use of fabric softeners should be on natural clothes only because they don't attach to the natural fibres as they do to synthetics. Reduce the use of the fabric softeners or use the "green" fabric softeners that are made of vegetable-based surfactants, salt, and natural ingredients for scent. Generally, they should not be used.

### **6. What points are to be considered in selecting a washing machine, ironing machine, dryer, iron? How should these laundry implements be cared for?**

When selecting a machine, ironing machine, dryer, or iron one need to consider the type of job the appliance will be used for, the environment where it will be used and the amount of money available.

Caring for these laundry implements should be firstly to follow the manufactures advice for care and maintenance. Ensure that the washing machine is kept dry when storing. The iron should be emptied of all the water before putting away.

### **7. How are woolen garments laundered?**

With the exception of those branded machine washable garments should be hand washed in lukewarm water with a mild soap, soap flakes or a specially prepared product.

The garment should not be rubbed vigorously but should be allowed to soak for a brief period in the water before being gently squeezed to remove the dirt and water.

The garment should be gently rinsed in lukewarm water at least twice. The garment should then be gently squeezed or rolled in a towel to remove excess moisture. The garment should be spread on a flat surface and gently pulled into shape. It should then be dried flat away from direct sunlight. It may be pressed using a warm steam iron or a dry iron using a damp cloth.

### **8. Know how to remove stains: ink, fruit, rust, grass, cocoa, grease, blood, chewing gum. Why must stains be removed before laundering?**

#### **Blood**

Treat blood stains immediately. Flush cold water through the stain and scrape off crusted material. Soak for 15 minutes in a mixture of 1 quart of lukewarm water, 1/2 teaspoon liquid hand dishwashing detergent, and 1 tablespoon ammonia. Use cool/lukewarm water. Heat can permanently set protein stains. Rub gently from the back to loosen stain.

Soak another 15 minutes in above mixture. Rinse. Soak in enzyme product for at least 30 minutes. Soaked aged stains for several hours. Launder.

If the blood stain is not completely removed by this process, wet the stain with hydrogen peroxide and a few drops of ammonia. Caution: Do not leave this mixture longer than 15 minutes. Rinse with cool water.

If blood stain has dried, pre-treat with pre-wash stain remover, liquid laundry detergent, or a paste of granular laundry product and water. Launder using bleach safe for fabric

### Chewing Gum

Hold ice on the gum to harden it. Crack or scrape off what you can using the dull side of a butter knife. Spray with an aerosol pre-treatment product, and let stand for five minutes. Rub with heavy duty liquid detergent. Launder. Repeat, if necessary.

### Grease

Rub well with dry corn flour. Do not wet the material, Roll up overnight and next morning shake off the corn flour and wash in hot, soapy water.

### Fruits

Sprinkle with salt while still wet. The salt will absorb most of the stain and what remains can be washed out with warm water. A few drops of kerosene will do the same job if rubbed onto the stain before washing, or rub powdered borax into the stain and pour boiling water through the fabric (unless the material is not of the type to withstand boiling water).

### Ink

Copy, ball point pen and red ink should be treated with methylated spirits, preferably with a small addition of acetic acid or white vinegar. Apply with an absorbent cloth and blot quickly to avoid spreading. Then wash as usual.

### Rust

Saturate the stain with a strong solution of lemon juice and salt. Hold over some rapidly boiling water (i.e. the steam). Washing rust spots with kerosene will also remove them.

### Cocoa

For washable fabrics, use warm suds with an addition of borax in the proportion of 30g to each 600 mls of water. Sprinkle remaining stains with borax and leave for 30 minutes.

## **9. Why is it important to remove garments from dryer immediately when the cycle is completed?**

It is important to remove garments from the dryer immediately because while the garment is still warm the creases will fall out making the garment easier to iron if at all.

## **10. What type of materials should be dried only on the lowest heat settings of a dryer?**

Fabrics made from fibres which have low moisture absorbency are fast drying and should be dried using a low temperature setting. This includes:

- Acrylic
- Nylon
- Polyester
- Polyolefin
- Microfibers

## **11. Show a blouse or shirt that you have ironed and folded, or show a skirt and coat that you have pressed.**