

TIPS ON SORTING

If you have a tip to share, [let us know](#).

- Sort articles by color, keeping whites, darks, and medium colors together. Lighter garments can pick up dyes from darker colors.
- Separate man-made fabrics, like polyester from natural fibers such as cotton. Man-made fibers can attract the oils that are released from natural fibers during washing. These oils can build up and make spots more noticeable.
- Wash heavily soiled, dirty, items separately from slightly soiled items. This will help prevent fading and keep colors brighter.
- Try to have large and small items in each washer load. This will let the items move more freely during the washing cycles.
- Sort delicate fabrics and loose knits from "tougher" fabrics.
- Garments which generate lint, such as fleece sweat shirts and towels, should be washed separately.
- It used to be you could help make dyes colorfast by adding 1/2 cup of WHITE vinegar to the washer, before adding the clothes. However, this does not work on today's dyes. If dyes bleed, continue to wash the garment separately until no color bleeds in the wash water.

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TIPS ON STAIN REMOVAL

Refer to our [Stain Removal Guide](#) for treating specific stains on washable fabrics.

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- Deal with the stain as soon as possible. The longer you wait the more time the stain has to soak in and/or dry, making it more difficult to remove.
- Lift or gently scrap off any excess material from the fabric. Use a cloth or a towel to gently blot and soak up any liquid. Don't rub! Rubbing can spread the stain and cause it to penetrate deeper into the fabric.
- Identify what caused the stain. In order to know what to do for the stain, you need to know what caused it.
- Follow the instructions on any presoak, prewash or stain removers. It's best to test a small out of the way area of the fabric first.
- If stains aren't entirely removed after washing, try rewashing the item. Allowing the item to dry, or putting it in the dryer, can set the stain for good.

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TIPS ON WASHING

If you have a tip to share, [let us know](#).

- Be sure to check the label for proper care instructions, including the water temperature and wash cycle to use.

- Don't overload the washer. If the washer is too full, the clothes won't get enough agitation, and may not get clean. Also, all the detergent may not be dissolved, leaving globs of detergent paste on fabric.
- Make sure the items are equally distributed around the tub of the washer to keep the load balanced during spinning cycles.
- To minimize wrinkling when washing fabrics containing man-made fibers, wash in hot/warm water using a permanent-press cycle. If your machine does not have a permanent-press cycle, use warm/cool water.
- Very important tip - Always be sure to check the pockets of all garments before washing and drying. The stains and damage which can result from one hidden lipstick, lip balm, stick of gum or crayon goes beyond words!

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TIPS ON DRYING

If you have a tip to share, [let us know](#).

- Lightly shake out items taken from the washer, before placing them in the dryer. Tightly balled up fabric dries slower and will likely come out wrinkled.
- Don't overload the dryer. A stuffed dryer will not allow the items to tumble. Drying will be slower and clothes will wrinkle.
- Keep like garments together. Permanent press items should not be dried with towels, and delicate items, such as lingerie should be dried separately.
- All clothes should be left in the dryer just long enough to remove wrinkles and moisture. Any longer and the heat can actually "set" wrinkles, increase static cling, and cause shrinkage. This can be true for both natural and man-made fibers.
- Use the proper heat setting and time cycle. Don't use a high or regular setting for all clothes. Read the label! Fabrics made from fibers which have low moisture absorbency are fast drying and should be dried using a low temperature setting. This includes:

Acrylic
Nylon
Polyester
Polyolefin
Microfibers

- After removing garments from the dryer, immediately hang them up or fold them. Don't let them lie in a heap. This can cause them to wrinkle.
- Permanent press items should be taken out slightly damp and hung on a non-rust hanger. Close clasps and button buttons. Straighten fabric lines and creases, and gently brush out any wrinkles.
- Keep the lint filter clean. A clogged filter increases drying time and costs more money in electricity/gas usage.

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TIPS ON IRONING

If you have a tip to share, [let us know](#).

- Use the washing and drying tips to reduce the amount of wrinkles from laundering.
- Be sure you read the care label for the proper ironing procedure and temperature setting to use.
- Do not iron items which are dirty or stained. Heat from the iron will set stains.
- Keep the iron and the ironing board cover clean to avoid soiling the clean garments/fabric being ironed.
- Garments which are drip-dry should be pressed while damp on the wrong side, using a cool iron. If finishing the right side, use a pressing cloth.
- Circular knits and sweaters should be laid flat to dry.

Care Label Guide

The following information is provided by the U. S. Federal Trade Commission as part of Project Clean. The symbols appearing on garment labels provide care instructions from the manufacturer.

As a minimum, laundering instructions include (in order) four symbols: washing, bleaching, drying, and ironing. Drycleaning instructions include one symbol. Additional symbols or words or both may be used to clarify the instructions. The water temperatures listed below are provided as a guideline. Actual water temperatures obtained in the home depend on washing machine settings (hot, warm, cold), regional supply temperatures, and water heater settings.

Wash



Normal



Permanent Press/Wrinkle Resistant



Gentle/Delicate



Hand Wash



Water Temperature 50C/120F (Hot)

••

Water Temperature 40C/105F (Warm)

•

Water Temperature 30C/85F (Cold/Cool)



Warning: Do Not Wring



Warning: Do Not Wash

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Bleach



Any Bleach (when needed)



Only non-chlorine bleach (when needed)



Warning: Do Not Bleach

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Dry



Dry



Normal



Permanent Press/Wrinkle Resistant



Gentle/Delicate



Heat Setting: High



Heat Setting: Medium



Heat Setting: Low



Special Instructions: Line Dry/Hang to Dry



Special Instructions: Drip Dry



Special Instructions: Dry Flat



Special Instructions: Dry in the Shade



Warning: Do Not Dry (used with do not wash)



Warning: Do Not Tumble Dry

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Iron



Iron



High



Medium



Low



Warning: Do Not Iron



Warning: No Steam

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Dryclean



Dry Clean



Any Solvent



Dryclean - Normal Cycle: Any Solvent except Trichloroethylene



Dryclean - Normal Cycle: Petroleum Solvent Only



Professionally Dryclean: Reduce Moisture



Professionally Dryclean: Short Cycle



Professionally Dryclean: No Steam Finishing



Professionally Dryclean: Low Heat



Warning: Do Not Dryclean

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