

CARE OF THE CLOTHING

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1. Dry Cleaning.
2. Spot Removal.
3. Laundering.

Some textile fabrics such as woollens, some silks, furs, and leather are altered in size and shape when washed in water, so we dry clean these articles to preserve their shape, size and color. A dry cleaning solvent does not cause the fiber to thicken, stretch, contract, or weaken. A plaited dress may be cleaned without loss of plaits. Dry cleaning solvents are free from moisture and evaporate quickly.

The sooner a spotted or soiled garment is cleaned the better, for often the fabric is weakened by allowing spots and stains to remain. Cleaning solvents will remove body oils, grease spots and soil that clings to those spots, but will not remove blood, sugar, grass, fruit, or acid stains.

A professional cleaner knows how to find out what has caused a given stain; also, what will remove it without injury to the fabric, so if a nice silk or wool dress has a stain which is of uncertain origin, send it to the cleaner. Spots and stains may be removed from cotton and linen at home, with very little difficulty. U. S. Bulletin No. 1474, "Stain and Spot Removal From Fabrics," should be in every home. It gives directions for removing all kinds of spots.

When getting ready to dry clean, mark spots with a colored thread before cleaning. If the spot is grease or oil the cleaning solvent will remove it; if some other substance, it will have to be treated differently. Brush articles thoroughly before cleaning.

1. CLEANING

Materials necessary: Cleaning solvent—several gallons; 3 large enamel bowls; dry cleaning soap.

Put 3 or 4 quarts of solvent in first bowl. Add one tablespoon of cleaning soap to each quart of solvent. This is as necessary in dry cleaning as ordinary soap is in washing clothes with water. Note: Some dry cleaning solvents have dry cleaning soap already added. Lift garment up and down in this gently until the soil has loosened. Rinse in the next two washes. If the garment is extremely soiled, use two washings with soap and two rinsings.

Place on coat hanger and hang out of doors; let hang in the air several hours—(clear day).

Pressing after cleaning is not necessary but it gives a finished look to garment. Clean white or light garments first, then colored, with darkest

ones last. Be sure to have enough solvent in bowls to cover garments thoroughly. Use as much solvent as you would water if washing. Cleaning a number of garments at one time saves gas.

Keeping clothes clean extends their life. Winter garments should never be put away for the summer until thoroughly cleaned. Moths hardly ever attack a clean garment. Moths and their larvae prefer dark corners, so plaits, seams, folds, and pockets require extra attention.

Some garments may be thoroughly cleaned by washing in soap and water; others shrink so badly when put in water that it is better to dry clean them.

Keeping clothing clean is one way of stretching the clothing dollar; it also improves personal appearance and increases self respect.

Caution: Most cleaning solvents are explosive. It is absolutely necessary to handle with care. Cleaning should be done out in the open on a clear day.

Avoid rubbing garments. Squeeze instead, as rubbing may cause gasoline to ignite. Simply lift garments up and down, after thorough rinsing, squeeze gently, do not wring.

Do not let any one strike a match anywhere near when cleaning.

Do not let any one come near who is smoking.

Give special attention to marked spots.

Protect hands by wearing rubber gloves when cleaning. Wash hands in alum water before cleaning, or apply vaseline or oil after dry cleaning.

Do not save used gasoline as it contains oils even when sediments settle out. Gasoline will kill grass, so throw it into open soil.

Use same precautions for commercial spot remover marked inflammable as for gasoline. Carbon Tetrachloride is not inflammable.

Fur collars should be removed from a coat before cleaning.

Gasoline discolors leather.

2. SPOT REMOVAL

Treat spot while fresh. Brush thoroughly to remove all loose dirt.

Greasy Spots: (1) Place an absorbent pad under the spot to be cleaned. The success of the work depends largely upon having this pad sufficiently absorbent. Absorbent cotton, old linen, blotting paper, and absorbent tissues are among the materials suggested.

(2) Apply the solvent (gasoline, benzine, tetrachloride or any of the commercial compounds) with a piece of fabric like the material being cleaned, and of the same color. For delicate silk use white flannel.

(3) Apply the solvent in a circle appreciably outside in. This aids in carrying the dirt through onto the pad rather than spreading it out into the surrounding material.

(4) Rub spot gently while drying, using a clean pad and a clean cloth.

(5) If the solvent ring still persists, use one of the following methods to eliminate.

a. Scrape French chalk over the spot, leaving it for some hours to absorb solvent, and then brush off.

b. Rub the fabric gently between hands.

Paste for Removing Stains: For tinted goods that would lose color if treated with any of the acids, try fuller's earth, or starch, made into a paste with a little glycerine. The paste should be spread upon the spot and left for several hours, then thoroughly brushed with a stiff whisk broom. Repeat the operation if any trace of the stain is left; or, if the trace is very faint, sprinkle with dry fuller's earth and let it lie for twenty-four hours, after which time the stain should have disappeared.

This paste is excellent for removing stains or spots from counterpanes, pillows and mattresses, as well as from the most delicate silk or woolen garments.

Perspiration Stain: (1) Sponge with soapy water if fabric will permit. Try tepid water first without soap on woolens and silks.

(2) Add a few drops of ammonia to peroxide of hydrogen and apply to stain.

(3) A good preparation for home use may be made and kept on hand as follows: 1 pint water, 2 ounces of acetic acid, 26% sol., 1 tbsp. salt. To use, wet a circle around stained portion with gas or spot remover, not letting it touch the perspiration stain. Then apply the liquid for this stain. Allow to dry thoroughly, then rub the entire surface with the spot remover. Good for underarm stains. Be sure and have an absorbent pad underneath spot.

Water Spots: Some silks and woolens are spotted by water. Sponge the entire surface with a damp cloth and press while it is still damp. Sometimes simply rubbing the spots will remove water spots.

Grapefruit, Orange and Lemon Juice Stains: If a little water can be applied to those spots immediately before they have a chance to dry, material will not be discolored.

Gloves—Handbags: Kid gloves and leather handbags may be cleaned with neutral shoe cream.

Doeskin, suede and washable leather gloves may be cleaned by washing on the hands in warm, soapy water. Wash just as if the hands were being washed. Remove with fingers turned inside out and wash the inner surface. Keep the water at an even lukewarm temperature. Leave a little soap in the last rinsing water. Place between towels and press out all moisture possible—do not wring. Blow up, then place on towel to dry. If the glove is stiff after drying, rub gently until it becomes soft. Rub a little talcum over smooth leather gloves after they have dried.

Paraffin method for kid gloves.

1. Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce (about 2 tablespoons) of finely shaved paraffin in one quart of solvent.
2. Put gloves in jar. Pour in the paraffin solvent, cover and soak thirty minutes.
3. Remove gloves to a clean platter. Scrub seams and soiled parts by dipping a small dry brush (tooth or nail brush) into paraffin bath.
4. Rinse gloves in clean bath of the paraffin solvent.
5. Squeeze out well by hand. Rub dry with a soft cotton cloth.
6. Polish gloves with a soft flannel or flannelette cloth.

Hats: Felts may be cleaned with salt and Energine; meal and gasoline, or salt and cleaning solvent.

Spots on hats may often be removed with a paste made of fuller's earth (direction above.)

Panama, leghorn and some straws may be washed with soap and water—always use a mild colorless soap. If the straw has yellowed, it may be bleached with peroxide or with a paste made of sulphur and lemon juice. Dark straw hats may be freshened by first brushing thoroughly, then wipe off with a cloth moistened with sewing machine oil. Shine with a dry turkish towel.

A hat block is excellent to have when cleaning a hat as it holds the hat in shape.

3. LAUNDERING

Many of the silks and some of the light weight woolens clean beautifully by simply washing. Use a very mild soap which is free from color, and lukewarm water. Lift up and down in the water, do not rub. Leave a little soap in the last rinsing water, this gives a lustre to silk after pressing. Do not wring the dress, but squeeze out all water possible, then roll between turkish towels and leave for 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from towels, shake in the air until nearly dry, then press with moderately hot iron. Your dress will look like new.

Rayon garments should be washed in warm, not hot water with mild soap. They should never be put in water to soak, as water weakens the fiber. Do not rub or wring, this breaks fibers. Wash quickly, squeezing the suds through the soiled parts. Rinse several times, squeeze out water, roll between towels a few minutes, then hang up to dry, being careful not to hang in the sun or near heat.

To Wash a Sweater.

Before washing lay flat and record measurements. Wash in lukewarm water with mild soap, squeezing suds through badly soiled places. Rinse in two or more waters. Squeeze out water and place between towels. Roll tightly and leave a few minutes. Refer to original measurements. Lay flat on a towel and shape according to these measurements.

To Wash Silk Hose.

Wash in lukewarm water with mild soap. Wash quickly, never soak. Do not rub or twist. Rinse several times. Squeeze the water out—do not wring. Dry quickly away from heat. Silk stockings should be washed immediately after each wearing, since perspiration deteriorates silk.