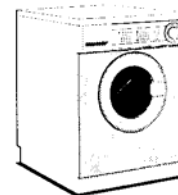


Prolonging the Life of Your Clothing

- ❖ Allow clothing items at least a 24-hour rest period between each wearing. This includes shoes.
- ❖ Air clothing after wearing and before it is stored. A good airing of several hours or overnight allows moisture from the body to evaporate and wrinkles to relax. Airing helps to naturally deodorize garments.
- ❖ Treat and remove spots and stains as soon as possible. Use “emergency” techniques when necessary. Be sure the person who does your laundry or dry cleaning knows where stains are located as well as the type of stain.
- ❖ Never store clothing dirty. Soil and stains attract insects. When allowed to remain, soil and/or stains may become permanent or cause permanent fabric damage.
- ❖ Clothing should be washed or dry cleaned only when soiled. Over-washing or over-dry cleaning can limit garment life-span. Freshen or renew garments between wearings by using a good clothes brush and airing.
- ❖ Rely on garment label for care instructions. Garment manufacturers are required to include at least one appropriate care method with a garment. Avoid purchasing garments without care labels.
- ❖ Keep several copies of the care label symbol guide close at hand for reference. It’s good to have one in the bedroom/closet and one in the laundry area.
- ❖ Checked your laundering IQ recently? As fabrics, equipment and products change, so does garment care technology. Learn what’s new!
- ❖ Teach family members how to do laundry properly. It’s not something we know how to do be instinct!



- ❖ Select a dry cleaner with as much care as you would choose your doctor or dentist. The life of your clothing may depend on it. Using over-the-counter dry cleaning products to “dry clean” in your dryer does not take the place of a commercial dry-cleaner when garments are soiled or stained.
- ❖ Treat stained clothing as soon as possible—within 24 hours is best! Every laundry room should have a good stain-removal guide. Be sure to show your dry cleaner the stain’s location and tell them what was spilled, if possible.
- ❖ Use correct storage techniques for all your clothing. Use *flat storage* for stretchy items (sweaters, polo shirts, etc.) and appropriate hangers for other items.

Padded and heavy wooden hangers – tailored coats, suit jackets, tailored dresses.
Tubular plastic hangers – all purpose or lightweight blouses, dresses, woven shirts, lightweight slacks/pants.

- ❖ Remove garments from the dry cleaning plastic bag as soon as you get them home. Plastic bags trap moisture and odors, forcing them to penetrate or remain on the fabric.
- ❖ Wool garments may be renewed frequently without pressing if properly hung on a hanger and permitted to stand in a steam-filled room (bathroom). Wrinkles will disappear.



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