

Mrs. Stewart's®



Home Washing Guide



Brought to you by the makers of

Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing

"Whitening White Clothes Safely Since 1883"



Mrs. Stewart's®

Home Washing Guide

A little common sense and effort in caring and laundering can extend the life and appearance of a garment, and as a result, save time and money. Most people are very careful to use exact measurements when they cook or bake. This guide is written to help you be just as exact when doing laundry. The most common reason for unsatisfactory laundering results is not following the directions. Throughout this guide, you will notice that we emphasize these points:

Follow instructions on the garment **Care Label**
Follow machine **Manufacturer's Instructions**
Follow instructions on the **Product Label**
Problems? – Call the **Manufacturer**

We hope this **Home Washing Guide** will be of practical and educational help to you. If you have friends or relatives who would benefit from this guide, please send us their names and addresses and we will mail a copy free of charge. If you are unable to obtain **Mrs. Stewart's Bluing** from your local grocery, please contact us, or visit us at www.mrsstewart.com on the internet, and we will be glad to help you.

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Quick Laundry Guide

If you are in a hurry – or desire a simplified summary of what's printed in detail in this **Home Washing Guide**, well, here it is – the quick do's, don'ts and tips of laundering. Understanding and applying these basic laundry guidelines will extend the life of your clothes and reduce the stress of laundry mishaps.

Washing Do's:

- ◆ Presort correctly.
- ◆ Check clothing and machine for foreign objects.
- ◆ Zip zippers, empty pockets, etc.
- ◆ Use appropriate cycle, temperature & water level.
- ◆ If needed, use pre-treatment products.
- ◆ Use an appropriate amount of detergent.
- ◆ Put detergent in first – let liquids dilute and powders dissolve before adding clothing.
- ◆ Always dilute bleach before adding. Add to wash water before adding clothes.
- ◆ Add fabric softener with final rinse. If available, use fabric softener dispenser.
- ◆ For the whitest whites, use **Mrs. Stewart's Bluing** in the final rinse, as directed on the bottle.

Washing Don'ts:

- ◆ Avoid overloading the washer.
- ◆ Avoid using too much detergent.
- ◆ Do not use fabric softener in wash cycle as it is incompatible with most detergents.

Drying Tips:

- ◆ Avoid overloading the dryer.
- ◆ Keep like garments together to prevent shrinkage, lint, pill development, etc.
- ◆ Dry garments just long enough to remove wrinkles and moisture.
- ◆ Use proper heat and cycle settings.
- ◆ Hang or fold clothes soon after they are dry to avoid wrinkling.
- ◆ Keep the dryer lint filter clean and vent clear.

We encourage you to take notice of the *Stain Removal Guide* on page 13 and the *Care Label Guide* on page 17 – helpful resources for successful laundry

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Protecting Earth

- ◆ Purchase laundry products packaged in recycled and recyclable materials. When empty – recycle.
- ◆ Purchase refill products in cardboard cartons rather than plastic bottles.
- ◆ Use products free of phosphates or builders.
- ◆ For whitening, choose **Mrs. Stewart's Bluing** rather than bleach. It's environmentally friendly.
- ◆ To save water, set your washing machine level for the size load you're washing or wait until you have a full load.
- ◆ To save electricity & gas, wash with warm or cool water. Always rinse in cold water.
- ◆ Use an adequate amount of detergent, but not more than necessary. Too many suds hamper effective washing and require more energy for extra rinsing.
- ◆ Keep in mind that a 10 minute cycle is usually enough for even very soiled clothes.
- ◆ Use the soak cycle to save time and money.
- ◆ Wait for a full load to use your dryer. However, remember that over-loading makes your machine less efficient and more costly to operate.
- ◆ Use warm to cool settings on your dryer, especially for permanent press clothes.
- ◆ Keep the lint filter on your dryer clean.
- ◆ Your dryer will run most efficiently if you dry clothes that are of the same thickness.

Laundry Safety

- ◆ Supervise young children near laundry machines.
- ◆ Wait until the washing machine has stopped spinning before reaching into the wash basket.
- ◆ Protect lives and save clothing by checking Product Labels for chemical interaction before combining different products.
- ◆ To avoid electric shock, do not use an extension cord to connect your washer. Instead, move the outlet or have a longer power cord installed.
- ◆ To avoid possibility of explosion, remove all traces of flammable cleaners from fabric, cleaning cloth and dust mops before machine washing and drying. These include acetone, denatured alcohol, gasoline, kerosene, some liquid household cleaners, some spot removers, turpentine, waxes, and wax removers

- many of which make excellent pre-laundry aids, stain removers, etc. However, when heated, these substances can present possible explosion hazards.
- ◆ Items containing foam rubber or like materials should never be heat dried. These materials, when heated, under certain circumstances, can produce fire by spontaneous combustion. Consult the care label before laundering such items.
- ◆ Be careful about where an iron is plugged in and how it is supervised. Be sure the cord is not strung across a hallway inviting a family member to trip over it. Be sure your ironing board is easy to set up and provides a sturdy and smooth surface for ironing.

Laundry Room

You can make the task of doing laundry more pleasant by arranging your laundry area in an efficient and pleasant manner. If you are planning a new laundry room, plan plenty of space and adequate lighting. Consider where machines and tubs will be placed to create the most efficient workflow. Plan electricity, gas and water appropriate to your layout. Consider the need for shelving and hanger space.

If you are working with a pre-existing laundry area, add lighting or shelving and re-plan a sorting area with labeled laundry baskets. A bulletin board for stain-removal information or for pinning up care labels from certain garments is invaluable. Are your iron and ironing board handy and near a safe outlet?

Keeping the laundry room clean, wiping surfaces frequently, helps keep laundry clean.



Laundry Equipment

Any machine will clean or dry adequately provided you use the right cycle, correct amount of detergent, proper water level and follow the machine *Manufacturer's Instructions*. Here are some maintenance tips to help extend the life of your machines and achieve cleaner laundry:

- ◆ Keep your loads balanced evenly.
- ◆ Clean the lint filters on both the washer and the dryer – after every cycle.
- ◆ Clean dryer exhaust ducts one each year.
- ◆ Wipe the machines out regularly to remove detergent, bleach & fabric softener residue.
- ◆ Avoid overloading your machines.
- ◆ Follow yearly maintenance checklists provided in machine manuals.
- ◆ An occasional “overhaul” by a professional is recommended to replace cracked seals, check hoses, re-balance, etc.
- ◆ Drain a washer before storing in an unheated area for an extended time. Service before using.
- ◆ To avoid electric shock, don't use an extension cord to connect your washer. Instead, move the outlet or have a longer power cord installed.

High Efficiency and Front Loading Washers

The newer washers in this category use less water and lower energy than the standard top-loading washing machine. Follow *Manufacturer's Instructions* frequently as you “get to know” your new washer, keeping in mind how less water and lower energy may affect your laundry routine and how to use your favorite laundry products.

If you do not have a machine manual, contact the manufacturer of your machine to obtain one. There is a list of manufacturers on page 19.

Water Hardness

Hard water does not clean as effectively as soft water. It is caused by minerals like manganese, calcium and iron and easily recognized by bathtub rings or scaling teapots. These minerals prevent laundry detergents from working and form a detergent curd that sticks to fabrics causing gray and dingy looking clothing and giving soft fabrics a stiff and harsh texture.

To determine whether you have hard water, call your city water department. Hard water contains 7.1-10.5 gpg and 121-180 ppm; very hard water contains more than 10.5 gpg and more than 180 ppm.

Hard water can be dealt with in a number of ways:

- ◆ Use adequate amounts of detergent and water. It may be necessary to use slightly more detergent than directed when washing with hard water.
- ◆ Hard water can be eliminated or softened by mechanical home water softeners. However, some only soften hot water and therefore don't solve the problem when laundering with cold water. If your water hardness is higher than 15-16 grains, a home water conditioner system should be considered.
- ◆ Packaged water conditioners can be used in the wash to help prevent minerals from inhibiting the detergent. Add to both the wash water and the rinse water. Follow instructions on the product label. In general, you can control up to about 15-16 grains of water hardness with packaged water conditioners.

If you are having a problem with curds produced by your powdered detergent reacting with your hard water, try switching to a liquid detergent. To remove curding stains, soak in a solution of 1 cup vinegar to 1 gallon of water for 20 minutes. Rinse thoroughly, then launder.

Iron Mineral

Laundry problems caused by high concentrates of iron (more than .2 or .3 parts per million) in water include yellow, orange or brown stains or spots or overall discoloration. Oxygen-type bleaches may be substituted for chlorine bleach as they do not react with dissolved iron to form stain-causing precipitates. Their bleaching action is milder and stain removal ability may be more limited, however if used consistently can help prevent iron staining.

In the event that you need to remove iron stains (rust), consult our *Stain Removal Guide* on page 17.

Monday - Soak Day
Tuesday - Wash, Blue & Hang to Dry Day
Wednesday - Iron, Fold, & Put Away Day
Thursday - Mend Day
Friday - Sew Day
Saturday - Bath Day (dirty clothes come off)
Sunday - Rest Day

Preparing Laundry

Presorting

Pre-sorting may be the most important step of the laundry process. By presorting your laundry in loads of like color, fabric weight, texture, construction and soil level, you can avoid many problems. For the best washing action in all loads, include articles of different sizes to allow free circulation in the washer.

To begin, separate out “dry clean only” garments. Then, sort by the following categories:

Sort by Color

Separate whites from colors and light fabrics from dark fabrics. Different wash temperatures are needed for maximum cleaning and to keep colors from fading and bleeding. If you have a new garment and wonder if it's colorfast, wash separately.

Add ½ to ¾ cup white vinegar when washing the item the first time. The vinegar neutralizes the color and minimizes future fading. Continue to wash separately until no color bleeds in wash water.



Sort by Fabric

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 make spots more noticeable. Some fabrics (white cottons, linens, and underwear) require hot water and vigorous washing; others (washable woolens and dark colors) require cold water and short wash times to prevent shrinkage or fading; still others (permanent press fabrics) require special treatment to prevent wrinkling. Follow garment care label instructions. Fabrics that generate lint, such as fleece and terry cloth, should be washed separately. Wash like-fabrics and like-colors together.

Sort by Weight, Texture and Construction

Loosely knit garments, articles with lace trim, or “hand washable” articles require a “delicate” laundry procedure. Lingerie should be washed separately from jeans. Mixing fabric weights can play havoc on your washer's balance and it will be unable to clean your clothes as efficiently.

Sort by Soil Level

Heavily soiled work or play clothes should be washed separately from lightly soiled clothes, as soils can travel from one garment to another. Wash grubbies in a separate load from good clothes.

Other Sorting Tips

- ◆ Always consult and follow garment care label instructions. For help, see the *Care Label Guide* on page 17. Put a bulletin board on the wall in the laundry area for attaching care labels of particular garments and for posting the *Care Label Guide*.
- ◆ Loads of permanent press, delicate, knit, and woolen pieces should be smaller than regular loads.
- ◆ Wash white items separately or with white-only loads to avoid picking up color from other fabrics.
- ◆ Do not wash silk, wool, spandex or other chlorine sensitive products in a load you plan to bleach.
- ◆ Blankets, bedspreads or large rugs should be washed alone because of their size.
- ◆ Diapers should be washed separately so you can use a gentler detergent.
- ◆ Place nylon hosiery in a mesh bag or zippered pillowcase for washing and drying.

Preparing

As you are sorting your laundry into appropriate wash loads, follow these simple preparation tips:

- ◆ Complete necessary mending, as the washing process could make rips and tears larger.
- ◆ Shake out loose dirt, brush lint out of cuffs.
- ◆ Close zippers and hooks. They may catch and snag other clothes in the load.
- ◆ Empty pockets. Remove belts, pins and bows. Overlooked tissue, crayon, lipstick, cigarettes, ballpoint pens, gum or any metal object can create real problems when they get into the washer or dryer, both for your clothes and for your machines.
- ◆ Check for loose change or dollar bills.

Pretreating

Follow these tips and consult our *Stain Removal Guide* on page 13 for pre-treating stains:

- ◆ Treat spots and stains as soon as possible and thoroughly before putting into the dryer.
- ◆ Check the garment care label before attempting stain removal.

Loading the Washer

As there are several types of washers, it is recommended that you obtain and become familiar with the *Manufacturer's Instructions* for machine use. Each washer offers different cycles and some offer various kinds of dispensers and filters – all of which affect the result of your laundry. If you are in need of a machine manual, a list of machine manufacturers is provided on page 19.

General Instructions for loading the washer:

- ◆ Put detergent in first – let liquids dilute and powders dissolve before adding clothing.
- ◆ Load the washer loosely with dry, unfolded clothes. Be careful not to over-load.
- ◆ Load larger items first, smallest items next and medium-sized items on top.
- ◆ Do not overload your washer by packing clothes in, as they must circulate freely in the wash basket for thorough cleaning and rinsing. Overloading can result in poor cleaning, excessive lint, extra wear on fabrics and extra work for your machine.

Presoaking

Presoaking works wonders on heavily soiled and greasy garments as well as on delicate pieces that require only a minimum of agitation. Pre-soak with water alone (use the warmest water safe for the fabric), or aid the soak by adding detergent or a commercial enzyme pre-soak product. Most machines have a presoak cycle that lasts for only a few minutes. For heavily soiled clothes, a presoak of 15 minutes or longer is recommended. To do so, fill washer, put in desired additives and clothing. Turn machine off for desired soaking time. Then turn machine on to finish the wash cycle. It is best not to soak overnight as this can cause fabric graying.

Laundry Products

As water doesn't clean laundry on its own, our society has managed to come up with a variety of laundry "aids". Some work and some don't. Some are harmful to fabric and to the environment. Most, however, are very helpful in producing clean laundry. It is important to choose the right product for the job. Pay attention to garment care labels, and follow product label instructions for use.

Detergent

Detergent is needed in every wash load. There are several types and brands of laundry detergent available. Keep in mind that package recommendations are for an "average" load with "average"



soil in 16 gallons of water of "average" hardness. Adjustment may be necessary.

- ◆ More detergent may be needed for large loads, extremely dirty clothes, or in hard water.
- ◆ Less detergent may be needed for small loads, lightly soiled clothes, or in soft water.

Detergents may have two major ingredients:

- ◆ Surfactants (surface active agents) make water wetter by reducing surface tension and letting fabrics absorb it more quickly. They are biodegradable and easily broken down in the ecosystem.
- ◆ Builders or phosphates are rarely used anymore as they have been found to be harmful to the environment and have been government banned under "Clean Detergent Acts" in many states.

More detergent tips:

- ◆ Add your detergent, whether liquid or powder, to your washer as it is filling up and before adding your clothes. Dissolved, diluted detergent has a better opportunity to spread evenly throughout your wash. This will also lessen the chance for detergent curdling, lint or pill development.
- ◆ Do not be concerned with "suds levels".
- ◆ Cold water detergents are generally as effective as warm/hot water detergents for commonly soiled clothing and they save energy.

Bleach

Bleach is an excellent stain and heavy soil remover. It also provides a disinfectant action. When used correctly, it can serve as a whitener as well. Of course, we recommend the use of **Mrs. Stewart's Bluing** for whitening, as it is more effective and less damaging to fabric. As always – follow the product label instructions and pay attention to garment care labels. Be familiar with the various types of bleach listed below and their affects on fabric.

Chlorine Bleach

Chlorine Bleach can be identified by the word “chlorine”, “sodium chloride” or “hypochlorite” on the package. It comes in both liquid and powdered form. It can be used for laundering all fabrics except silk, wool, spandex, non-colorfast fabrics, and certain flame retardant finishes. If the garment care label says “No Bleach” or “No Chlorine Bleach”, do not use it. Liquid chlorine bleach is a powerful chemical and must be used according to product label instructions. Powdered chlorine bleach is not as caustic as liquid, but must be diluted and handled with care. When used incorrectly, chlorine bleach can permanently discolor and damage fabric fibers. Applied directly, it can burn holes in your fabric. Safety should be observed when using chlorine bleach, as it is highly toxic. Never mix chlorine bleach with ammonia, rust removers, vinegar, cleaning fluids, or acids. These chemicals can produce toxic gases when combined.

Oxygen Bleach

Oxygen bleach is “safe for all fabrics” or “all fabric bleach”. However if garment care label says “No Bleach”, oxygen bleach should not be used. This type of bleach is most effective when used consistently. It is not strong enough to restore whiteness to garments that have become gray and dingy or to be considered a “stain remover”. It may be added in the recommended amount along with the detergent when loading the washer. Follow product label instructions.

Bleach Dispensers

Many washing machines provide a bleach dispenser. When used per the *Manufacturer’s Instructions*, they work well at dispensing the bleach when the washer is at its fullest and the clothes have already been saturated, thus reducing bleach damage, which can occur when undiluted bleach comes in contact with fabric – particularly dry fabric. Do not add powdered bleach to a bleach dispenser unless otherwise recommended by the machine manufacturer.

Bluing

Bluing is a fabric whitener. While bleach “removes” something from fabric, bluing “adds” something to fabric. Bluing is not a detergent, stain-remover, color-remover or dye, but an optical whitener. When fabric is manufactured, it begins as an untreated product – correctly called “greige goods”.

“Greige goods” meant to be white go through a vigorous process of chemical bleaching, cleaning and finally bluing to make it appear sparkling white in color. As the fabric experiences repeated washings and age, the bluing escapes and the gray or dinginess returns. **Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing** provides an opportunity for the consumer to add bluing back in to the fabric restoring the just-new white appearance. **Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing** is biodegradable, non-toxic and environmentally friendly.

Instructions – Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing:

- ◆ Always dilute bluing in cold water before adding to the wash or rinse load.
- ◆ Mix a few drops or up to ¼ teaspoon of bluing, depending on wash load size, in a quart or more of cold water.
- ◆ Add diluted bluing to wash water or final rinse. Water should appear light sky blue.

Notes – Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing:

- ◆ While bluing can be used in wash or rinse cycles, it is more effective when used in the rinse cycle.
- ◆ How much bluing? Generally, when using **Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing** in the wash water, use no more than ¼ teaspoonful and if used in the rinse water, less than 1/8 teaspoon – for full loads of laundry. In any case, bluing should always be diluted.
- ◆ Avoid pouring bluing from the bottle into the machine when clothes are present as any fiber can absorb undiluted bluing causing spotting.
- ◆ Bluing may be used in the same cycle as detergent. However, we do not recommend that bluing be used in the same cycle with other laundry products. There is no worry of hazardous chemical reaction. Bleach encourages adherence of bluing to fabric and most fabric softener manufacturers recommend that fabric softener not be used in along with other laundry products. If you wish to use these other products, use them in separate machine cycles.
- ◆ We do not recommend dispensing bluing from your automatic fabric softener dispenser as most dispensers are not large enough to allow for enough dilution and spotting can occur.



◆ We do not recommend soaking of any garment in bluing water as prolonged exposure to bluing can produce a blue tint to the fabric.

◆ For re-bluing fabric, such as faded denim jeans, use more bluing than directed.

Bluing and Colors

Mrs. Stewart's Bluing has been tested and is endorsed as a whitener for white fabrics. However, many loyal customers use it in every load claiming that it brightens colors as well. Since bluing does not "remove" color, it is safe to use as directed with white and color fabric alike. Some have reported that "using more bluing than directed" aids in keeping blue jeans very blue and black fabrics fade free.

Fabric Softener

Fabric softener eliminates "static cling" from permanent press garments and from those made of nylon, polyester, and acrylic. It also minimizes wrinkling and makes clothes soft and fluffy. There are several types of fabric softener on the market:

◆ Detergents with fabric softeners.

◆ Rinse-added fabric softeners.

◆ Dryer-added fabric softener sheets.

◆ Fabric softeners used in the final rinse are the most effective over-all. Be sure to follow Product Label instructions for use. Here are some general tips about using final rinse fabric softeners:

◆ Dilute and then add to the rinse water when the rinse indicator light comes on.

◆ If you have a fabric softener dispenser – follow machine Manufacturer's Instructions for use.

◆ Do not use any other additive in the rinse cycle with your fabric softener or pour fabric softener directly onto clothes as grease-like stains may occur.

◆ Too much fabric softener can cause build-up that will "waterproof" items such as towels and diapers causing them to be less absorbent and causing dinginess. If this should happen, discontinue use of fabric softener for a few washes to allow build-up to dissolve and rinse away.

Starch

Modern fibers and fabric finishes have reduced the need for starch. For that occasional need, however, there are starch products available. Follow product label instructions for use.

About Washing

Most washing machines offer a choice of water level, water temperature, and cycle (which sets intensity and length of agitation, number of rinses, length of soak, etc.). Follow machine *Manufacturer's Instructions* for the best results. The guides below will also give you an idea of appropriate cycles for specific loads.

Water Level

Vary the water level in your washer to fit the size of your wash load. Be sure there will be enough water to let items move freely. Avoid overloading.

Water Temperature

Proper choice of water temperature can also minimize dye transfer from unstable colors. Check your garment care label for recommended wash temperature. If care label advice isn't available, use the following as a guide.

◆ **Hot Water** provides the quickest and best cleaning. Use it for sturdy whites, colorfast pastels and light prints, cloth diapers and similarly soiled baby items, heavily-soiled work and play clothes.

◆ **Warm Water** cleans while minimizing dye loss, removes wrinkles and helps reduce wrinkling in the washer. Use it for permanent press, colorfast dark or bright colors, synthetics made of nylon, polyester, acrylic and washable wools.

◆ **Cold Water** may help protect sensitive dyes, minimize washer wrinkling and save hot water. However it doesn't clean as well as warmer water. Use it for bright red and orange dyes that release color without losing intensity; lightly-soiled fabrics, removal of some protein stains such as blood.

◆ **Cold water** is excellent for rinsing ALL loads, regardless of wash water temperature. Rinsing in cold water helps reset dye-fastness, set in fresh smelling scents of detergent fragrances, and save energy.

In the past, laundry detergents were formulated to clean well at temperatures above 60°F. In water colder than 60°F, detergents did not dissolve well and soils were more difficult to remove. However, now that we are more environmentally and energy conscious, machines and detergents are both manufactured to clean well in cold water.

Washer Cycle

◆ **Regular Cycles** usually provide a wash time of 10-14 minutes with a normal agitation and spin intensity. This is a good cycle for most cottons, linens, work and play clothes. If you are energy conscious, many resources report that a 10 minute cycle is usually sufficient for commonly soiled garments.

◆ **Soak Cycles** are provided to help loosen embedded soils and stains. Most last only a couple of minutes. If you desire a longer soak – fill the machine, add clothes and soaking aids (such as a pre-soak enzyme product) and then turn the machine off. When ready to resume the laundry, turn the machine back on, selecting the appropriate wash cycle.

◆ **Synthetic Cycles (Permanent Press, Knits)** are for loads of shirts, blouses, dresses, knits and similar wearing apparel with normal soil levels. These cycles provide a wash time of 5-10 minutes with an extended cool-down spray rinse which helps to minimize wrinkling.

◆ **Delicate Cycles** are provided for laundering delicate lingerie, stockings, nylon undergarments, etc. These cycles have a minimal washing time of 3-5 minutes with a gentle agitation and spin intensity.

◆ **Extra Rinse Cycles** are provided for use with modern fabrics with heavy or oily soil, to help remove additional detergent that may be required for these soils.

Washing with Front-Loading and High-Efficiency Washers

The newer washers in this category use less water and energy than standard top-loading washing machines. Follow *Manufacturer's Instructions* as you "get to know" these washers, keeping in mind how less water and lower energy may affect your laundry routine and how to use your favorite laundry products.

While the general guidelines in this guide can be applied, you may want to purchase products specifically made for these machines. For example, detergents specifically marked for high-efficiency washers are formulated to create fewer suds.

It will be important to know HOW your machine works because you will not be able to OPEN it during a cycle to add product or to remove an item as you might be able to do with a top-loading machine. The product dispensing drawers and the doors often lock preventing entry until the process is complete.

About Drying

To begin, check the garment care label for specific drying instructions or warnings. As drying can set some stains into fabric more permanently, make a practice of checking freshly washed clothing for stains before throwing them into the dryer. Finding one gives you the opportunity to treat it before the dryer cycle makes it impossible.

Without the Automatic Dryer

Drying via clothesline in the sunshine remains a favorite. Unfortunately, in our society, it has become inconvenient. While it is more energy efficient than the automatic dryer, it takes a much longer time.

Flat air-drying is preferred for sweaters and some cotton knit garments. Squeeze out extra water without wrinkling. Then roll the garment in a towel to absorb more water. Shape and lay out flat on a clean dry towel or on a drying rack.

With the Automatic Dryer

Since many clothes are permanent press or "no iron" garments, the chore of ironing can be virtually eliminated by using an automatic dryer properly. Items such as towels, jeans, or underwear are much softer and more comfortable to wear when tumble-dried. Get to know your dryer and its cycles by consulting the machine *Manufacturer's Instructions* for use. If you are in need of a machine manual, see page 19.

◆ Prepare clothes for drying by lightly shaking out items taken from the washer before placing them in the dryer. Tightly balled up fabric dries slower and will likely come out wrinkled.

◆ Be careful not to overload the dryer. A stuffed dryer will not allow the items to tumble, causing wrinkling and slower drying.

◆ Keep like garments together. A washer load is usually a dryer load – both in size and likeness. 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.

◆ Be careful not to over dry. This can cause lint, wrinkling and shrinkage of fabrics. It is normal for elastic bands in shorts, socks, or bras to feel slightly

damp when first removed from the dryer. Use the proper heat setting and cycle.

- ◆ Hang and fold garments as soon as possible after drying is complete to avoid wrinkling.
- ◆ Do not dry woolens, fiberglass fabrics, rubber or plastic coated articles as these present a fire or explosion hazard.
- ◆ Keeping the lint filter clean and clear will prevent fire-related accidents as well as maintain good air circulation for better drying results.

Dryer Cycle & Temperature

- ◆ **Regular (Warm/Hot)** cycles are for drying non-permanent press items such as towels, underwear, jeans, and diapers.
- ◆ **Permanent Press (Warm)** cycles are for permanent press and outerwear garments of nylon, acrylic, polyester, and blends of these with other fibers. Care labels may say “tumble dry” or “tumble dry-medium.” It is essential to remove these garments from the dryer immediately when tumbling stops since they will become wrinkled if left in the dryer basket. If your dryer has a cool-down cycle, take advantage of it to help eliminate shrinkage & wrinkling.
- ◆ **Delicate (Cool)** cycles are for lingerie, “hand washable” items, machine wash/dry woolens, and those heat sensitive items labeled “tumble dry-low”.

Other Drying Tips

- ◆ Items containing foam rubber or vinyl, like bath mats with rubber backing, must not be dryer dried, unless the care label instructions suggest otherwise.
- ◆ Draperies should be dried according to the care label instructions.
- ◆ “Machine wash and dry” woolens may be dried on the delicate setting. “Hand washable” woolens should be blocked (laid flat and adjusted to correct shape without stretching) and air-dried.
- ◆ Nylon hosiery can be dryer dried in a mesh bag.
- ◆ Cotton knits should be blocked into shape and air-dried flat unless care label states otherwise.
- ◆ Drying a small load reduces the tumbling effect and prolongs the drying period. Add 3-4 already clean and dry like-color towels to speed up drying of small loads.

About Ironing

In the modern days of permanent press and other no-iron fabrics, many families do not even own an iron. In the event that you need to iron or if you simply prefer or enjoy it, here are some guidelines to follow:

- ◆ Use the washing/drying tips to reduce wrinkling.
- ◆ Be careful about where an iron is plugged in and how it is supervised. Be sure the cord is not strung across a hallway inviting a safety hazard. Be sure your ironing board is easy to set up and provides a sturdy and smooth surface for ironing.
- ◆ Read the garment care label for the ironing procedure and temperature setting to use.
- ◆ Do not iron items that are dirt or stained. The heat from the iron could set the stain in more permanently. Likewise, keep iron and ironing board cover clean to avoid staining a freshly laundered garment.
- ◆ When ironing pile fabrics (velvet, corduroy, materials with raised patterns,) or when ironing dark fabrics, silk, rayon, linens and acetates – iron on the wrong side of the fabrics to prevent de-texturizing and shining of the fabric.
- ◆ When ironing double fabrics such as shirt collars, cuffs, pockets and hems, iron the inside first and then the outside. These areas may require steam or pre-wetting when ironing.
- ◆ Iron clothes while they are still damp.
- ◆ Iron lengthwise on fabric to prevent stretching.
- ◆ Hang clothes immediately after ironing to help them keep that “just-pressed” look.

Fabric Care



Understanding fabrics can be valuable when, in the absence of a garment care label, a laundry decision needs to be made. If a garment care label is provided, pay attention to it. If a garment care label is not provided, the following information may be of help to you. When

washing fiber blends (i.e., 70% polyester, 30% cotton wool), wash as if they were 100% of the predominant fiber. You may also find it helpful to consult the *Care Label Guide* on page 17.

Natural Fibers

◆ Cotton is a commonly used fiber because of its strength and breathability. It absorbs water well but wrinkles easily. It may be washed in hot water and dried easily at high temperatures.

◆ Linen is cellulose fiber like cotton but it wrinkles easily. It may be washed and ironed as a cotton is, but do not press sharp creases as its fibers break easily.

◆ Silk is a protein fiber. It may be machine washed in warm temperature unless the care label says it is “delicate”. Do not use Chlorine Bleach. Do not dry in direct sunlight.

◆ Wool is a natural protein fiber that is almost wrinkle free. Most woollens are “dry clean only”. If the care label says “washable”, follow garment care label instructions. Be gentle, as it will shrink if agitated when hot and wet. Use cold or lukewarm water and a short washing time. Use a “delicate” cycle and provide an 8-minute soak with 2-minute agitation. Chlorine bleach will damage wool. Drying in warm and hot temperatures will cause extreme shrinkage. Do not dry in direct sunlight.

Man-Made Fibers

◆ Acetates and tri-acetates are heat-sensitive and brittle. Most acetates are “dry clean only”. If the care label says “washable”, handle with care and follow care label instructions. Wash in cool or warm water. Never twist or wring wet acetates. Iron on warm setting or with steam.

◆ Acrylics are wrinkle resistant and retain their shape well. They are heat sensitive, so air dry or tumble dry low and use a steam iron on warm setting.

◆ Glass fibers are often used in bedspreads and draperies. If possible, hand wash fabrics with glass fibers. Never dry clean glass. Do not twist or wring as this will break the fibers. Do not iron.

◆ Nylon is the strongest fiber available. White nylon products must be washed separately because they pick up color easily. Rinse in cool water and tumble dry-low. Gray or yellowed nylon can be treated with **Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing** to restore whiteness.

◆ Polyesters are very wrinkle resistant and strong. However, they take on oily soil easily. Wash in warm water. Turn polyester knits inside out to prevent snagging and pill development. If ironing is necessary, use steam iron on warm setting.

◆ Rayon is absorbent and versatile. It has little strength when it is wet. If the garment label specifies “washable”, it may be washed in warm water – on

the delicate cycle – and ironed only if necessary.

◆ Spandex is used for its elasticity. It will yellow if exposed to chlorine. It is machine washable and can be tumble dried or line dried – but not in direct sunlight. It is heat sensitive.

Special Items

◆ Stockings and panty hose should be hand washed in lukewarm water. They can be washed in the washing machine if first placed in a mesh bag or a zippered pillowcase. If hand washing, squeeze water out gently without wringing or twisting. Line dry or dry in automatic dryer on the “delicate” cycle in mesh bag.

◆ Diapers should be rinsed immediately and soaked in a solution of lukewarm water and a gentle detergent until washing. Run diapers through a spin cycle to release excess contaminated water before washing. Wash in hot water with an adequate amount of gentle detergent on a regular cycle (10+ minutes). As bleach can be harsh on a baby’s skin, we recommend using gentle Mrs. Stewart’s Bluing in the final rinse to keep diapers their whitest.

◆ When washing and drying draperies, curtains, quilts, bedspreads, rugs and similar items, we recommend following the instructions on the care label or consulting the manufacturer.

Special Problems

Color Loss

Causes of color loss include bad quality dyes, incorrect bleaching, and an over-hot dryer. Most color loss is permanent and non-reversible. For prevention of color loss, sort clothes properly, follow care label instructions on clothing, and product label instructions on products used. If you have a garment that you suspect is not “colorfast”, wash it separately. To the first washing, add ½ to ¾ cup of vinegar to the wash load. This will help neutralize the dyes, eliminating some bleeding and fading.

Color Transfer

Also known as “Bleeding”, color transfer occurs when a non-colorfast fabric comes in contact with a lighter color fabric (for instance, red on white) and the dye transfers. This usually happens when both fabrics are wet. This is caused by bad quality dyes.

For prevention of color transfer, sort clothes properly, follow care label and product label instructions. If noticed before drying, rinse in cool water. If color remains, rub with detergent and re-wash. Use bleach if safe for fabric. Use color remover if safe for fabric.

Dinginess

Dinginess or graying is caused by loss of whitener in fabric, color transfer, over-bleaching, age, insufficient amount of detergent, pre-soaking for too long, overloading of washing machine, hard water and/or a number of other factors.

For prevention of dingy looking clothing:

- ◆ Use an adequate amount of detergent (but not too much) and proper water temperature.
- ◆ Be sure clothing is sorted correctly.
- ◆ Do not overload your washer.
- ◆ Limit bleach use. While it is a good stain remover, continuous use will damage fabric fibers irreversibly.
- ◆ To prevent graying caused by hard water, consider the purchase of a home water softener or look into packaged water conditioners.

To prevent and reverse graying caused by bleaching, age or insufficient cleaning, use Mrs. Stewart's Bluing to restore whiteness to white laundry and to brighten colors in colored laundry.

Lint

Lint is the small particles or balls of loose unwanted fiber that collect on clothing. Lint gently attaches itself to the surface of clothing. Some lint will always be created by wear and laundering.

To prevent washing-related lint:

- ◆ Unclog or clean out the washing machine lint filter. Follow the machine Manufacturer's Instructions for care and maintenance of the machine.
- ◆ Sort fabrics that tend to create lint into their own loads (towels, flannel material, blankets, etc.).
- ◆ Before laundering these loads, shake and brush the fabric with a clothes or lint brush, or use the sticky side of masking tape to remove lint.

To prevent drying-related lint:

- ◆ Unclog or clean out the dryer lint filter and follow *Manufacturer's Instructions* for proper maintenance.
- ◆ Sort fabrics that tend to create lint into their own

loads, shake and brush them free of lint.

- ◆ Incorporate the use of fabric softener sheets.
- ◆ Set the dryer at a cooler temperature.
- ◆ Turn clothes that create or collect lint inside out for drying.
- ◆ Remove clothing when slightly damp.

Pills

Pills develop when groups of short or broken fibers on the surface of the fabric become entangled together in a tiny ball – a pill. Pill development results from rubbing or abrasion of the fabric during normal wear and use. Pill development is particularly prevalent with polyester and polyester blends.

To prevent pill development:

- ◆ Before laundering, turn the garment inside out.
- ◆ Use a slower agitation and a shorter wash cycle.
- ◆ Use liquid detergent or allow powdered detergent to dissolve completely before adding garments.
- ◆ Remove from the dryer as soon as it is dry.

To remove pills, use a battery operated pill remover, which shaves the pills from the surface of the garment. Or, pull the fabric taut over a curved surface and carefully cut off the pill with scissors or shave the fabric surface with a safety razor.

Laundry & Children

Young children should be supervised when near the washer or dryer. With good teaching and patience, older children can learn to do laundry. Here are some tips for making laundry easier for kids:

- ◆ Since most light and dark fabrics can be washed together in cold water these days, a lot of the sorting we used to think was necessary isn't always, and sorting by color is relatively simple for most children.
- ◆ Teach children to check their check pockets and zip zippers before laundering their clothes.
- ◆ Post a safe stain removal chart near the laundry area and encourage children to treat stains while they are fresh. If safety is a concern, some stains could say "See Mom" or "See Dad".
- ◆ Teach children to be responsible for folding and putting away their laundry as soon as it is finished to keep items from wrinkling.

Mrs. Stewart's Stain Removal Guide

The Basics

- ◆ Treat spots and stains as soon as possible and thoroughly before putting into the dryer (drying may make the stain more difficult to remove).
- ◆ Check the garment care label before attempting stain removal or using any stain removal products or remedies.
- ◆ Begin by lifting or gently scraping off any excess material from the fabric using a dull table knife – being careful not to damage the fabric. Use a cloth or towel to gently lift and soak up any liquid. **DO NOT RUB!** Rubbing can spread the stain and cause it to penetrate deeper into the fabric.
- ◆ For immediate treatment of common spots and stains, follow these guidelines: For grease, oil and fruit stains, use hottest water safe for fabric. For protein stains (blood, tomato sauce, egg, human fluids), use cold water. In any case, soak for 30 minutes, if possible. Otherwise, thoroughly sponge spot until outline disappears.
- ◆ Identify the agent or substance that caused the stain. For most common stains, use a pre-wash stain removal product. For fruit stains, pour excessive amounts of hot water through the stain. For vegetable, animal and human fluid stains – use an enzyme pre-soak product. For oil, grease, and some glues – sponge with cleaning fluid, rinse thoroughly, then launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. For specific stains, follow instructions provided in Mrs. Stewart's *Stain Removal Guide* below. For stains caused by laundry products, call the manufacturer even before consulting a professional dry cleaner and especially before trying to remove the product stains with other products.
- ◆ If, after laundering, the stain is not removed, proceed with a new removal procedure before heat drying.

Stain

Removal Solution

Acne Medication

Must be cleaned professionally. Do not use water as this may make the stain more permanent.

Adhesive Tape

Remove excess matter with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Sponge with cleaning fluid, blotting with clean paper towels until removed. Let air dry, then brush away remaining adhesive residue. Rinse thoroughly, then launder.

Alcoholic Beverages

Sponge with or soak in cold water. For beer, rinse with equal parts of vinegar and water. For wine, gently rub salt into stain or blot with club soda and then rinse with equal parts of vinegar and water. In addition, red wine can often be treated with white wine to remove the red coloring and then salt or club soda to remove remaining stain. Press detergent into stain while still wet. Launder using bleach safe for fabric. Older stains may respond to an enzyme pre-soak product.

Baby Formula

For fresh stains on white fabric, moisten cloth with water, dip in baking soda and blot the stained area. If stain persists, apply detergent to stain or use an enzyme pre-soak product. Rinse thoroughly, then launder using bleach safe for fabric (and baby) in hottest water safe for fabric.

Blood

For fresh stain, soak in cold water (soak for extended period of time for dried stain). Use enzyme pre-soak product, following label directions. If stain persists, apply equal parts of ammonia and water (for colorfast fabrics), or hydrogen peroxide and water (for non-colorfast fabrics). Rinse thoroughly. If stain still persists, soak in equal parts vinegar and water. Rinse. Launder using bleach safe for fabric.

Bluing

If accidentally spilled full strength or if too much bluing was used, soak fabric overnight in a solution of ½ cup ammonia to 1 quart of cold water in a tightly covered container. Do not use bleach. If bluing removal was previously attempted with bleach, soak 2-3 days in solution of 1 cup ammonia to 1 quart of cold water in a tightly covered container.

Chalk

Remove chalk dust by shaking or using sticky tape. Apply pre-wash stain remover. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. If stain persists, apply an oxygen bleach paste and re-launder. Or, try rinsing with equal parts of vinegar and water. Rinse, then re-launder.

Charcoal

Press with detergent and a few drops of household ammonia (for colorfast fabric) or with detergent only (for non-colorfast fabric). Rinse, then launder.

Chewing Gum

Harden gum using an ice cube. Scrape gummy matter from fabric with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Sponge with cleaning fluid. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly, then launder.

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| Chocolate / Cocoa | Soak in cold water. Press detergent into stain while wet. Use pre-wash stain remover and launder in hottest water safe for fabric. To remove remaining grease stain, sponge with cleaning fluid, let air dry. Rinse thoroughly. If stain persists, sponge with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse thoroughly. Launder using bleach safe for fabric. |
| Coffee / Tea | Sponge stain immediately and, if possible, soak in cold water for 30 minutes. Press detergent into stain while wet. If safe for fabric, stretch cloth over bowl and pour boiling water through stain. To remove remaining grease stain (from cream), sponge with cleaning fluid. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly. If stain persists, sponge with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse thoroughly. Launder using bleach safe for fabric. |
| Cosmetics | Sponge with cleaning fluid. Press with detergent. Rinse. Launder using bleach safe for fabric. |
| Crayon | Harden using an ice cube. Scrape off excess wax with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. For hardy fabrics, stretch over bowl and pour boiling water through fabric from height. For more delicate fabrics, place between several layers of facial tissue or paper towels and press with warm iron (no steam). To remove remaining stain, sponge with cleaning fluid or, if stain persists, with diluted household chlorine bleach (if safe for fabric) or an oxygen bleach paste (if safe for fabric). Instead of bleach, try vinegar or lemon juice for a natural remedy. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. Or, wash in hot water using laundry detergent and 1 cup baking soda. |
| Dairy Products | Scrape off excess with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Sponge or soak in cold water using agitation if possible. Press detergent into stain and launder. To treat remaining grease spots, sponge with cleaning fluid. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly, then launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Deodorants / Antiperspirants | Press detergent into dampened stain. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. Antiperspirants that contain such substances as aluminum chloride are acidic and may change the color of some dyes. Color may or may not be restored by sponging with ammonia (for colorfast fabric). If ammonia treatment is required, dilute with an equal amount of water for use on wool, mohair, or silk. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Dye (from non-colorfast article) | Bleach immediately using bleach safe for fabric, repeating process as often as necessary. Or use a commercial color remover (if bleach is unsuccessful or if bleach is not safe for fabric). |
| Egg or Meat | If dried, scrape excess matter from fabric with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Sponge with cold water. Press detergent into dampened stain and launder using bleach safe for fabric. On wool and resin treated cottons, sponge with cold water, then with cleaning fluid. Rinse, then launder. |
| Fabric Softener | Dampen stain, press with bar soap. Rinse thoroughly, then launder in hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Fruit / Fruit Juice | Press dampened stain with detergent. If safe for fabric, stretch over a bowl, then pour boiling water through stain from 12-18" height. If stain persists, make oxygen bleach paste and press into stain. Add a few drops of ammonia (for colorfast fabrics). Wait 15-30 minutes. Rinse thoroughly. Apply enzyme pre-soak product, then launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Furniture Polish | Lay flat down on top of several clean paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid from back side. Let air dry, then brush away remaining polish residue. Rinse thoroughly, then launder using hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Gasoline | Lay flat face down on top of several clean paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid from back side. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly. If stain persists, press detergent into stain. Launder using hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Glue | For all types, begin by soaking in warm water. For animal based glue, pre-treat with an enzyme pre-soak product (if fabric is washable) or pre-treat with pre-wash stain remover (if non-washable). For paste or white glue, remove excess matter with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Press detergent into stain. Wait 5 minutes. Launder with hottest water safe for fabric. For synthetic glue, attempt to remove the stain and remaining gummy matter with pure acetone (unless the fabric is acetate or triacetate based). Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |

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| Grass | After using an enzyme pre-soak product or a stick style pre-wash stain remover, press detergent into stain. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. On wool, sponge stain with full strength rubbing alcohol. For acetate and non-colorfast fabrics, use 1 part alcohol to 2 parts water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Grease / Oil | Pretreat with a degreasing hand cleaner, an absorbent (chalk or corn meal product), or press with detergent to bring oil to the surface of the fabric. Pre-wash aerosol detergent booster products work well on grease and oil. Rinse in hottest water safe for fabric. If stain persists, lay flat face down on top of several clean paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid from back side. Let air dry. Rinse, then launder. |
| Ink | For ball-point pen ink, sponge stain with rubbing alcohol (hair spray may work in a pinch – but may leave a gummy residue to be dealt with). Or, apply glycerin. Rinse thoroughly, press with detergent, then launder. For drawing ink stain, press absorbents into stain. Apply hydrogen peroxide full strength if stain is unaffected, then steam over teakettle. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. Or, soak in ammonia, press household cleaner into stain. Rinse thoroughly, launder. |
| Ketchup | Remove excess with a dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Soak in cold water for 30 minutes. Pretreat with detergent and/or enzyme presoak product. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Lipstick / Rouge | Lay flat face down on top of several clean paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid from back side. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly. Or, use a pre-wash stain remover. Press detergent into stain until outline is removed. Rinse thoroughly, then launder using bleach safe for fabric. |
| Mayonnaise | Lay flat face down on top of several clean paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid from back side. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. If stain persists, press with detergent. Launder. If stain still persists, treat with meat tenderizer (test for colorfastness first) and launder. |
| Mildew | First, use a disinfectant to kill the mildew. Then remove excess with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Pretreat with detergent and launder using bleach safe for fabric. If stain persists, sponge with hydrogen peroxide and launder using bleach safe for fabric. |
| Mud | Let dry. Remove excess with dull table knife or with a household brush, being careful not to damage fabric. Sponge with cold water. Launder in hottest water safe for fabric. If stain remains, sponge with rubbing alcohol. If acetate or non-colorfast fabric, dilute alcohol using 1 part alcohol to 2 parts water. |
| Mustard | Work glycerin into stain. Scrub, being careful not to damage fabric. Pretreat with detergent, then launder using bleach safe for fabric. If stain persists, sponge with rubbing alcohol, then launder. It has been suggested that drying in sunlight may help fade mustard stains. |
| Nail Polish | Do not use acetone nail polish remover on colored fabrics. Sponge with chemically pure amyl acetate. Launder. If stain persists, sponge with rubbing alcohol to which a few drops of ammonia have been added. |
| Paint / Varnish | If possible, treat stains quickly before paint dries. If stain or paint container has stain removal instructions, follow them. Otherwise: For wet latex paint stains, rub with detergent, then launder, using extra water. Dry latex paint stains are impossible to remove, although sand paper has been suggested, as has methanol (found in hardware stores). For wet or dry oil paint stains, sponge with mineral spirits, blot with clean, white paper towels. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Pencil Lead Marks | First, try a clean eraser. Then, sponge with equal parts of ammonia and water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Perfume | Sponge with equal parts of alcohol and water. Rinse thoroughly. If stain persists, sponge with equal parts of vinegar and water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder using bleach safe for fabric. |
| Perspiration | Sponge with equal parts of ammonia and water and then equal parts of vinegar and water. Apply detergent, then launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. If color is affected by perspiration, sponge fresh stain with ammonia, old stain with vinegar. Wash in hot suds. Soak in diluted chlorine bleach (if safe for fabric) or press with oxygen bleach paste (if safe for fabric). Or, dip in a sodium hydrosulphite solution (1 tsp. crystals to 1 cup water). Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |

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| Ring Around the Collar | Apply liquid detergent or a paste of granular detergent and water. Wait for 30 minutes. An enzyme pre-soak product especially designed for this purpose may be used, follow manufacturer's directions. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Rust | Launder in hottest water safe for fabric using detergent and rust removal product. If a rust removal product is unavailable, use a solution of 1 tablespoon oxalic acid crystals in 1 cup of warm water. Sponge this solution into the stain. Rinse thoroughly as oxalic acid is poisonous, then launder. A natural remedy is to rub the stain with salt and lemon juice, dry in the sun, then launder. |
| Sap (Wood Resin) | Sponge stain with cleaning fluid, turpentine or pre-wash stain remover. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly. Press with detergent paste and launder as usual. If stain persists, apply a few drops of household ammonia. Air dry. Rinse thoroughly. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Scorch | Severe scorching cannot be removed, as fabric may have been permanently damaged. For light scorching, launder in hottest water safe for fabric using bleach safe for fabric. For heavier scorching or for non-bleachable fabric, cover stains with cloth dampened with hydrogen peroxide. Cover with a dry cloth and press with hottest iron safe for fabric. Rinse thoroughly. Press detergent into stained area while still wet. Launder. Repeat if necessary. Another suggested method is to rub scorch lightly with fine sand paper, then sponge with equal parts of vinegar and water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Shoe Polish | Scrape off excess with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. Press detergent into dampened stain. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. If stain persists, sponge with full strength rubbing alcohol (for colorfast fabrics) or a solution of 1 part alcohol to 2 parts water (for non-colorfast fabrics). Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Smoke / Soot | Shake off excess soot outdoors. For small spots, take up excess ash with sticky tape. Use a pre-wash stain remover. Launder using heavy duty detergent and bleach safe for fabric. To remove odor, use baking soda. |
| Soft Drinks | Sponge stain immediately with cold water. Apply pre-wash stain remover and glycerin. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. Some soft drink stains are invisible after they are dry, but turn yellow after aging or heating. This yellow stain may be impossible to remove. |
| Syrup | Soak in warmest water safe for fabric. Or, if safe for fabric, stretch over bowl and pour boiling water through fabric from 12-18" height. If stain persists, use pre-wash stain remover. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. |
| Tar / Asphalt | Act quickly before stain is dry. Tar removal products are available at auto supply stores (test first). Or, pour cleaning fluid or turpentine through stain. Repeat. Rinse thoroughly, apply detergent, then launder. This stain is often impossible to remove. |
| Urine | Treat with equal parts of vinegar and water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. Or, treat with equal parts of ammonia and water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Vegetables | For green vegetables, use an enzyme presoak, then press in detergent. Launder using bleach safe for fabric in hottest water safe for fabric. On wool, sponge stain with full strength rubbing alcohol. For acetate and non-colorfast fabrics, use 1 part alcohol to 2 parts water. Rinse thoroughly, then launder. |
| Vegetable Cooking Oil | Treat light stains with pre-wash stain remover or liquid laundry detergent. For heavy stains, lay flat face down on top of several clean paper towels. Sponge with cleaning fluid from back side. Let air dry. Rinse thoroughly, then launder in hottest water safe for fabric. Before drying, check stain. Repeat process if necessary. |
| Wax | Harden using an ice cube. Scrape off excess with dull table knife, being careful not to damage fabric. For washable fabric, stretch over bowl and pour boiling water through stain from 12-18" height. For non-washable fabric, place between several layers of facial tissue or paper towels and press with warm |

Mrs. Stewart's Care Label Guide

Caring for fabric in the proper way is important enough that federal regulations have been enacted requiring garment manufacturers to provide information about how to care for the garment. This information must be attached to the garment and must be readable upon purchase. The following guide will aid you in understanding the instructions on the care label of your garment. We encourage you to check the care labels on your garments and other fabric products and follow the instructions given for washing, drying and ironing. Doing so will prolong the life and quality for your garment.

| <u>Care Label</u> | <u>Definition / Instruction</u> |
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| Block to Dry | Maintain original size and shape while drying. |
| Cold Water | Water with a temperature up to 85 degrees F. |
| Cold Wash / Rinse | Use cold water or set washing machine for cold water. |
| Damp Wipe | Clean surface with damp cloth or sponge. Do not machine wash or dry. |
| Delicate Cycle / Gentle Cycle | Use appropriate machine setting with slow agitation and spin and reduced washing time. Or, wash by hand. |
| Do Not Bleach | Do not use bleach of any type. |
| Do Not Dry Clean | Use recommended care instructions. Dry cleaning chemicals should not be used. |
| Do Not Iron | Do not iron or press with heat. |
| Do Not Spin | Remove garment before spin cycle begins. |
| Do Not Use Chlorine Bleach | Do not use chlorine bleach. Oxygen bleaches may be used. |
| Do Not Wring | Hang dry, drip dry, or flat dry only. Handle to prevent wrinkling and damage or distortion of fabric. |
| Drip Dry | Hang wet and allow to dry with hand shaping only. |
| Dry Clean Only | Garment should be dry cleaned only, including self-service dry cleaning. |
| Dry Flat | Lay garment horizontally flat, on breathable surface to dry. |
| Hand Wash | Launder only by hand in lukewarm (hand-comfortable) water. May be dry cleaned. |
| Hand Wash Separately | Hand wash alone or with like colors. |
| Home Laundry Only | Wash, bleach, dry, press by any customary method. Dry cleaning chemicals should not be used. |
| Hot Wash | Use hot water or set washing machine settings for use of hot water. |
| Iron Cool | Set iron at lowest setting. |
| Iron Damp | Dampen garment before ironing. |
| Iron Hot | Set iron at hot or hottest setting. |
| Iron Wrong Side Only | Turn garment inside out to iron. |
| Line Dry | Hang damp and allow to air dry. |
| Machine Wash | Wash, bleach, dry and press by any customary method, including commercial laundering and dry cleaning. If no temperature is specified, water up to 150 degrees F can be used. |
| No Heat | When drying, choose the "no heat" or "air dry" setting. Or, air dry without a machine. |
| Permanent Press | Use appropriate machine setting with warm wash, cool rinse and reduced spin cycle. |
| Professionally Dry Clean Only | Use the services of a licensed, professional dry cleaner only. Do not use self-service dry cleaning. |

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| Remove Promptly | Tumble dry. In absence of cool down cycle, remove at once when tumbling stops. |
| Steam Iron | Iron or press with steam. |
| Tumble Dry | Dry in tumble dryer at specified setting. If no temperature is specified, a hot setting may be used. |
| Warm Iron | Set iron at medium setting. |
| Warm Wash / Rinse | Use warm water or warm washing machine setting. |
| Warm Water | Water with temperature between 90 and 110 degrees F. "Hand-comfortable". |
| Wash Inside Out | Turn garment inside out before washing to protect fabric. |
| Wash Separately | Wash alone or with like colors. |



Washing Machine and Dryer Manufacturers

To obtain manuals for your washer or dryer, contact the manufacturer of your machine.

Bosch

800-944-2904

www.bosch-home.com/us

Bosch Customer Care

1901 Main Str, Ste 600, Irvine, CA 92614

Frigidaire

800-374-4432 (main)

706-860-4110 (customer service)

www.frigidaire.com

Frigidaire Customer Service

P.O. Box 212378, Augusta, GA 30907

General Electric

502-452-4311 (main)

800-626-2000 (answer center)

www.geappliances.com

GE Appliances

3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06828

Kenmore

888-KENMORE (main)

800-549-4505 (customer service)

www.kenmore.com

Sears (Kenmore) Customer Service

3333 Beverly Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

LG

800-243-0000 (Customer Service)

www.lg.com

LG Electronics Customer Service

201 James Record Rd, Huntsville, AL 35824

Maytag

866-616-2601 (Customer Service)

800-688-2002 (Canada)

www.maytag.com

Maytag Customer Service

553 Benson Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Whirlpool

866-698-2538 (Customer Service)

800-688-2002 (Canada)

www.whirlpool.com

Whirlpool Customer Service

553 Benson Rd, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Samsung

800-SAMSUNG (Product Support)

www.samsung.com/us

Consumer Electronics Support

85 Challenger Rd, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

Electrolux

877-435-3287 (Customer Service)

www.electroluxappliances.com

Electrolux Major Appliances

P.O. Box 212237, Augusta, GA 30907



Look what some NEW and LOYAL customers have to say about **Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing!**
See more comments at our web site, www.mrsstewart.com.

*"I am stopping in the midst of doing my laundry to write to you to tell you that I use your **Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing** every time I wash – EVERY load. Growing up, my mother couldn't rinse without bluing. That was when she used the wringer type washer and two stove tubs – one to soak and one to rinse. I learned and was taught by her how to 'hang out' a white, clean wash! My lingerie and kitchen cloths, for years, looked like (are you old enough for this???) 'tattletale gray', and I knew the missing bluing had something to do with it. Now, every time I put in a load of wash, in goes the MSB, too, and believe me, there is a difference. Even my husband commented on the change. I've been meaning for a long time to write to tell you so – and today is the day. The other loads will wait – I have a "Thank You", most belated, to write."*

— H.P. – Roswell, GA

*"I have just recently discovered your **Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing**, and to say the least, I'm ecstatic. We live in a rural area and have well-water. Our well is fed by a natural underground spring, which makes for sparkling clear water. However, when we experience a very heavy rainfall, the water will appear dingy and the result, of course, is dingy whites. I've tried presoaks, bleach, and nothing made a really noticeable difference until I tried your product. I'm telling everybody about my new discovery!"*

— D. Turney – Hulbert, OK

*"Can you possibly stand yet another glowing testimony regarding **Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing**? Prepare yourselves because this consumer couldn't be happier with your product! Environmentally safe, fabric-friendly and multipurpose – all for such a reasonable price? I thought products like this were extinct! You guys are great!"*

— C. Spriher – St. Paris, OH

Share a Home Washing Guide with Your Friends!

You may have friends or relatives who would like a copy of the **Home Washing Guide**.

Please send us their names and addresses and we will mail a copy free of charge.

If you or your friends cannot obtain **Mrs. Stewart's® Bluing** from local grocers and would like to try it, please call us and we will be glad to help you.



Comments on our Home Washing Guide?

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