

Quadrant II – Notes

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Subject: Textiles and Clothing

Course Code: GE15

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Unit I: Introduction

Module Name: Care and Maintenance of fabrics

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Top tips for proper fabric care

Different fabrics in your wardrobe require varied care - lumping everything together will ultimately result in heartbreak when you take clothes out of the dryer, only to find that your jumper's shrunk two sizes and your beautiful white sundress is now a dreadful shade of bubblegum pink.

Although it's tempting to take shortcuts when it comes to laundry - it's hardly the most enjoyable household task - taking the time to do it right is worth the effort. After all, your wardrobe represents a huge investment of time, effort and creativity. Don't let carelessness cost you a fortune - follow the basic rules of laundering to get perfectly clean, vibrant clothing after every wash.

Linen:

- Never wash linen clothing at a temperature of more than 60 degrees Celsius - by doing so, you risk causing premature wear.
- Separate colours from light, white linens. Dyes can easily bleed through and ruin pure white linen.
- Use non-bleach stain remover prior to laundering. Bleach will weaken fibres in the fabric and ruin dyed clothes.
- Try to remove stains immediately, if possible. (This rule applies to most fabrics.)

- Wash table linens and towels separately, otherwise clothes will come out covered in lint.
- When washing linen clothing, fill your machine only halfway. This fabric needs a little more water than others to get clean.
- Always hang your linens out to dry. Tumble drying them will cause creases and shrinkage.

Silk:

- Hand wash silk clothing, using a gentle soap.
- Hang it out to dry.
- Never iron silk clothing - it will burn the fabric.

Wool:

- Avoid frequent washes, as this will shorten the life of your wool clothing and wear the fabric out prematurely. Wool is an especially delicate fabric, so treat it with care.
- Soak wool in cold water prior to washing in soapy water. This will help prevent shrinkage.
- When washing is absolutely necessary, use a delicate setting with cold or lukewarm water.
- If possible, it's best to hand wash wool items. Always dry it naturally - tumble drying will ruin your clothes.
- Use specially-made wool detergent to get the fabric clean and fresh.

Cashmere:

- Take great care when washing cashmere, as it's quite delicate and can be easily damaged. To protect your items, gently place them inside a pillowcase or special bag prior to starting the washing cycle. This will prevent rapid rotation inside your washer from agitating the fabric.
- Use a wool-washing detergent or gentle, diluted soap to clean cashmere items.
- Avoid tumble drying at all costs. Instead, lay cashmere out on flat towels to air dry.

Pashmina:

- Treat pashmina just as you would cashmere - very gently.

Cotton:

- Since cotton is quite durable, you can relax knowing the washing machine won't cause any adverse effects. Wash cotton clothing in warm (not hot) water, using colour-safe detergent.
- To keep cotton towels fluffy and soft to the touch, use half the recommended amount of

detergent, and give them an extra rinse at the end of the cycle.

- Tumble dry low or dry naturally to prevent shrinking.

Synthetic fabrics (rayon, nylon, acrylics, spandex, and polyester):

- Synthetic fabrics are also easy to maintain - just turn them inside-out, pop them in the wash and use regular detergent.

- Tumble dry low, just as you would with cotton.

- For nylon clothing, you might want to consider using fabric softener to prevent static electricity.

Separate clothing:

Finally, once you've sorted clothes based on fabric type, separate delicates like underwear from other items, and colours from whites. Invest time and attention into both the sorting and washing processes, as they will help extend the life of your clothing.

Clothing Storage

Storage is an important component in the care and maintenance of clothing. However, it is a component frequently overlooked until a problem occurs. Proper storage can and does reduce the time and money involved in upkeep and prolongs the life of your clothing. Clothing storage must accommodate hanging as well as flat or folded items. Closet, drawer and shelf space have become a modern storage necessity that is sometimes in too short supply. The amount of storage space needed is dependent upon the amount and type of clothing; therefore, space requirements become very individualistic and specialized. Clothing storage can be divided into three distinctive categories with respect to duration: short-term or day-to-day, seasonal and longterm.

Methods of storing clothes

1. Hanging Storage

Hanging Storage Clothes, that are hung, should be suspended in an appropriate manner from a hanger. Hooks, as hanging devices, have limited use and should generally be avoided. Appropriate clothes hangers and proper hanging techniques should be used

2. Flat Storage

Storage is required for items that must be folded or stored in a non-hanging condition. There are many items that fit this category and include sweaters and other types of knitwear (such as dresses, jackets); heavy, stretchy clothing; other delicate or fragile clothing; handbags; and small or otherwise unhangable items.

3. Short term Storage

Short-term storage is for items stored daily or on a day-to-day basis. It consists of that portion of the wardrobe currently being worn and used. Proper day-to-day handling of clothes extends wear life and cuts down on the amount of laundering or drycleaning required. Organization is extremely important to short term clothing storage. Organized closets and drawers permit wardrobes to be more functional and require less last-minute clothing maintenance. Take time to plan and use existing storage space to meet individual needs. Shop around, locate and install storage hardware and accessories to expand and individualize available space. A little creative thought can also prove helpful.

4. Seasonal Storage

Seasonal storage is for items not currently being worn because style, fabric, color or weight is unsuited to the time of year. Storage time varies across the country from one to several months depending on climate and cultural influences. Clothing stored on a seasonal basis requires special care and consideration. The following suggestions serve as a guide to storing seasonal items

5. Long term storage

Long-term storage is for special clothing worn infrequently as well as heirlooms and garments with sentimental value. Items may be stored for as little as a year, or for periods of several years at a time. Among the items requiring long-term storage are costumes, holiday or party garments, special sports clothing, wedding dresses, maternity wear, and baby clothes. Great care must be given items that are to be packed away and stored for long periods of time. The following suggestions serve as a guide to long-term storage.

References

1. <https://www.domesticandgeneral.com/content/contact-2/hints-tips/article/top-tips-for-proper-fabric-care>
2. https://fleming.ca.uky.edu/files/clothing_storage.pdf