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MN 2000 EP-no.108

Minnesota

Agricultural Extention Service

Pamphlet 108

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Extension Pamphlet 108 September 1942

I Will Make Things Last

CARE OF CLOTHING

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Agricultural Extension Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For Yourself and Your Country — Make Your Clothes Last

★ Rayon ★

WASHING AND PRESSING

1. Remove all nonwashable trimmings.
2. Use mild soap, thick suds.
3. Use lukewarm water throughout washing and rinsing.
4. Work fast. Put through two suds quickly rather than soaking.
5. Squeeze suds gently through garment. Do not rub, twist, or wring.
6. Roll in absorbent cloth to remove moisture.
7. Remove from towel or cloth immediately.
8. Shake out garment. Shape with hands. Hang on hanger or lay flat if material tends to stretch.
9. Some dresses need to be stretched back to measurement during drying and pressing. Alpacas and some crepes, for example, are sometimes washed at home although dry cleaning is recommended. The length and width of waist and skirt should be measured before washing, so they can be stretched back to original size.
10. Press with warm iron on wrong side. Test iron on inside seam for low heat. Spun rayons should be pressed when nearly dry; some of them are best when entirely dry. Sharkskin must be quite damp. However, many poor pressing jobs result from pressing rayons while too damp.
11. Finish the pressing on the right side as necessary. Use a light touch and slightly damp pressing cloth to avoid glazed appearance.

★ Wool ★

PRESSING

Wrong side pressing—Place a woolen press cloth, such as a piece of flannel or blanket, on the ironing board. Lay garment right side down on press cloth (pressing wool on wool prevents shine). Next place a heavy press cloth (canvas or feed sack) over the garment and sponge the press cloth with warm water. Alternately lift and lower the warm iron, lightly touching the cloth, so that the steam in the press cloth steams the wool.

Never allow full weight of iron to rest on fabric except for folded edges or seams.

Right side pressing—To press trousers, coats, and other garments that must be pressed from the right side, lay garment on board and cover first with woolen press cloth and then canvas press cloth. As you raise press cloths after steaming, quickly brush fabric with a stiff brush to restore nap.

Before pressing remove baggy spots. Lay baggy section flat on board. Wring out a small muslin cloth and place single over bulge. Steam with iron by raising and setting it down again until fullness has disappeared. Then proceed with regular pressing.

For all pressing—Press from the top of the garment down, first pressing parts such as sleeves that fall off the board. Prevent marring right side by slipping a strip of heavy wrapping paper between the seam or pleat and the garment.

Never press wools completely dry. Hang coats and dresses on hangers to dry. Wrap a newspaper or magazine around the bar of a coat hanger before hanging trousers or skirt.

Pressing Equipment

Make pressing easier with a well-padded ironing board, the padding firm but not too soft. A padded roll is good for pressing seams and sleeves. Make by wrapping a rolled magazine with several thicknesses of paper and cover with a piece of heavy fabric. A tailor's cushion helps in pressing armholes, shoulders, sleeve caps, rolled collars, shaped suit and coat fronts, and the top part of trousers. Make a ham-shaped bag of muslin (11 inches long by 8 inches at the wide end). Pack firmly with sawdust, wool scraps, or sheared wool. Cover with a woolen fabric bag made exactly like the muslin bag.

WASHING WOOL SWEATERS

1. Use soft water or, if not available, a commercial softener such as sodium metaphosphate. Avoid softeners that are too alkaline—read the label.
2. Use rich suds of mild soap. Never rub cake of soap directly on garment.
3. Use lukewarm water for all sudsings and rinsings. Hot water shrinks wool.
4. Wash sweater quickly without soaking. Squeeze suds gently through sweater. Rubbing, twisting, and wringing shrinks wool. Support weight of sweater in hands to avoid stretching.
5. Rinse until water is clear.
6. Remove moisture by wrapping sweater in absorbent cloth. Handle gently.
7. Slip sweater over cardboard form cut to original shape. Put sleeve forms in last, slipping them through neck. Use rust-proof pins to hold edge in place at neckline, armholes, wrists, and bottom.
8. Dry in warm, well-ventilated place. Avoid sunlight, high temperatures, and cold drafts.

CARE OF WOOL

1. Hang up woven wool garments when not in use. Lay knitted garments flat.
2. Air wool garments from time to time. Wool lasts longer if there are rest periods between wearings.
3. Avoid excessive pressing. Permit wrinkles in wool garments to hang out rather than be pressed out.
4. Keep clean. Do not permit garments to become badly soiled before dry cleaning or washing. Brush frequently. Remove stains promptly.
5. On rainy days, when clothes are wet and mud-splashed, hang them to air, away from direct heat. Mud, when dry, is easy to remove with a brush, but any attempt to remove it when wet is likely to work it into the material.

Storing Wool

6. Before storing, dry clean or wash wool garments. If neither is possible, remove all spots and clean badly soiled areas such as collars and cuffs. Brush well, especially under pleats, seams, cuffs, and in pockets. Hang out of doors in sunlight.
7. Store garments in unbroken cardboard box or garment bag made of heavy paper. Some articles can be wrapped in heavy paper.
8. Sprinkle well with flakes of naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene (ask your druggist to order a five-pound can from his wholesaler).
9. Seal storage container completely with gummed paper or other type of tape. Take particular care to seal corners of boxes, folds of package, or point where hanger handle protrudes from the garment bag.

BE A VICTORY PLANNER

Take good care of the things you have

★ Cotton ★

WASHING CORDUROYS AND VELVETEENS

1. Make thick suds of warm water and mild soap.
2. Plunge garment up and down through suds. Use a brush on soiled areas.
3. Rinse until all traces of soap are removed.
4. Do not wring or twist.
5. Hang so that water drains down with nap.
6. Brush against nap when thoroughly dry to raise pile.

To remove wrinkles and raise pile, steam and press if necessary. Use dampened press cloth and press lightly with the nap of the goods. Brush against the nap while still damp.

Or

Hold the material over steam and brush against nap while damp. This method is sometimes more convenient than steam pressing.

★ Rubber Goods ★

Mend or darn foundation garments as soon as they begin to break. Allow three fourths of an inch margin all around a darn. Use darning cotton. Fine thread will cut the rubber. Leave plenty of slack in the thread while darning, so the mended portion will have as much give as possible.

Wash foundation garments with mild soap and warm water. Stretch as little as possible when wet. Rinse several times in warm water. Roll in a dry cloth or towel to remove excess moisture. Remove from towel and hang in a cool, well-ventilated place to dry. Never hang by garters.

Store rubber articles in cool, dark place. Keep them free from sharp folds or anything that will strain or cut. Stuff overshoes or galoshes with loose wadded paper.

Remove oil and grease immediately by washing with soap and water. If this does not remove the stain, sponge with dry cleaning fluid. Do not allow fluid to remain on the rubber more than two or three minutes. Gasoline motor fuel is hard on rubber.

RAINCOATS

Repair a raincoat with a patch of self material if possible. Rough up the surface around the place to be patched by buffing it with sandpaper. Make the patch one-half inch larger all around than the place to be patched. Apply two coats of rubber cement both to the patch and to the garment. Let each coat of rubber cement dry. Put patch on carefully exactly where you want it. Do not try to change its position once you have placed it. Press patch on firmly. Hold with a weight until the patch is well set. Sometimes inner tubing is used for a patch on rubber garments. If so, remove the Holland cloth from the patch. Use only one coat of cement on the patch.

★ Shoes ★

Keep shoes in shape by the use of shoe trees or paper stuffing. Have the heels fixed promptly. Polishing is not all for show. Polish resists water, makes shoes more flexible, and adds to their life.

Work shoes are helped by oil or grease even after the leather begins to harden or dry, or fails to turn water well. Good materials for greasing shoes are neat's foot, cod, and castor oils, tallow, and wool grease or mixtures of them. First brush the soles and uppers thoroughly to remove all dust and dirt and then warm the shoes carefully. Apply warm oil or grease with a swab of wool and rub it well into the leather with the palm of the hand. Take special care to work the grease in thoroughly where the sole is fastened to the upper. Let the greased shoes dry in a warm, but not hot place.

CARE OF WET SHOES

Care for wet shoes properly. First, wash off all mud and grit. Oil shoes with castor oil, straighten the counter, heel, vamp, and toe, and stuff the shoes with paper to keep shape and hasten drying. Set the shoes aside in a place that is not too warm and let them dry slowly. Polish as soon as they are dry.

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Division and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Paul E. Miller, Director. Published in furtherance of Agricultural Extension Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

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