

Skills for Living

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Topic 20-5

Caring for Clothes

- In this topic, you will learn how to care for clothes properly, as well as
 - ❖ **Daily clothing care**
 - ❖ **Laundering steps**
 - ❖ **Drying clothes**
 - ❖ **Ironing and pressing**
 - ❖ **Dry cleaning**
 - ❖ **Environmental awareness in clothing care**
 - ❖ **Storing clothes**

Caring for Clothes

Objectives for Topic 20-5

After studying this chapter, you will be able to

- explain daily clothing care
- care for your clothes by using proper laundering, drying, and ironing techniques

Topic 20-5 Terms

❖ ironing

❖ pressing

❖ dry cleaning

Daily Clothing Care



- As you dress and undress,
 - ❖ open fasteners to avoid straining garments
 - ❖ avoid stains from makeup or lotions
 - ❖ inspect garments for stains or rips

Laundering Steps

- Proper laundering
 - ❖ cleans garments
 - ❖ removes wrinkles
 - ❖ removes perspiration odors



Read Care Labels

- The label must include the
 - ❖ washing method
 - ❖ water temperature
 - ❖ drying method
 - ❖ drying temperature
 - ❖ type of bleach that can be used safely
 - ❖ use of iron
 - ❖ ironing temperatures

Sort Clothes Properly

- Sort by
 - ❖ color
 - ❖ wash temperatures
 - ❖ wash cycle
 - ❖ surface texture
 - ❖ degree of soil

Prepare Clothes for Laundering

- Remove surface soil by shaking or brushing
- Close zippers and hooks
- Repair snags
- Mend rips and tears
- Check pockets
- Pretreat stains

Understand Laundering Products

- ***Soap***—remove soil in hard water
- ***Detergents***—remove soil in hard or soft water
- **Bleach**—helps remove stains, whitens, disinfects
 - ❖ ***Chlorine bleach***—cannot be used on some fabrics
 - ❖ ***Oxygen bleach***—safe for all washable fibers
- **Water softeners**—use with hard water
- **Fabric softener**—reduce wrinkling and static electricity

Using the Washing Machine

- Distribute items evenly
- Do not overload the washer
- Select a suitable wash cycle
- Select water temperature according to fiber



Drying Clothes

- Automatic dryers are convenient, especially for large loads
 - ❖ *Regular cycle*—for clothes that are not heat sensitive
 - ❖ *Permanent press cycle*—moderate heat with a cool-down period
 - ❖ *Fluff cycle*—unheated air to freshen items
- Line drying is recommended for some fabrics
- Flat drying is used to avoid shrinking or stretching

Ironing and Pressing

- ***Ironing*** is the process of moving an iron across fabric to smooth wrinkles
- ***Pressing*** is the process of lifting the iron up and down to apply pressure in one area
- Tips for ironing and pressing
 - ❖ Use the iron properly
 - ❖ Use the proper setting for the fabric
 - ❖ Press an inside seam or hem first
 - ❖ Iron along the lengthwise grain
 - ❖ Use a pressing cloth to prevent shine

Dry Cleaning

- ***Dry cleaning*** is the process that cleans clothes using organic chemical solvents; water is not used
 - ❖ ***Professional dry cleaners***—specialized treatments and proper pressing
 - ❖ ***Home in-dryer kits***—remove odors, wrinkles, and light stains in about half an hour in the dryer

Environmental Awareness in Clothing Care

- Modern technology has developed laundry appliances that use energy and water very efficiently



Storing Clothes

- Store knit clothes in drawers to prevent stretching
- Close fasteners of clothes on hangers to keep the shape
- Use specialty hangers when necessary
- Store like garments together
- Set aside clothes to be laundered or dry-cleaned

Did You Know...

- A load of wet clothes contains about half a gallon of water
- Lint is created as the water is removed during the drying process

Source: Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

Summary for Topic 20-5

- Establish a daily routine for clothing care
- Read clothing labels for care instructions
- Follow proper steps for laundering, drying, ironing, or dry cleaning clothes
- Take steps to care for the environment as you care for clothes