

GENERAL CARE

Carefully read the instructions on the clothes labels. Always follow the instructions of the washing-machine manufacturers. Detergents should be well dissolved in water so that they do not cause stains and neutral detergents should be used on delicate materials.

High temperatures may damage materials, both during washing and ironing. Colours may fade as a result of drying in the sun or centrifuging.

When stains are difficult to remove, consult a professional. Avoid bleaching agents which wear out fibres and materials. Instead, use whiteners, known as "93delicate bleachers"94.

Clothes with linings and buckram must always be dry-cleaned.

Keep dirty clothes in a dry, well-aired place. Remove any objects, empty pockets, turn down shirt sleeves, undo buttons and raise collars and neckbands.

Separate pieces subject to oxidation (rivets, hooks, buttons) and eliminate oxidation stains with an appropriate stain remover before washing

WASHING



HAND-WASHING

Recommended for multi-coloured pieces of clothing and delicate materials.

During the first few washings, the water may become tinged with the colour of the piece of clothing, so it is recommended to wash each piece separately.

Always wash in cold water and do not allow the clothes to soak for too long.

The soap or detergent must be fully dissolved before putting the clothes in the water.

Do not rub the clothes too much. Rinse thoroughly.

MACHINE-WASHING

Separate the clothes according to colour. Read the labels on the clothes carefully and do not overload the machine. Never set the temperature to the maximum indicated. More delicate pieces and knitted garments should be washed inside a net or a pillow case.

BLEACHING AGENT

Before applying a bleaching agent, examine the symbols on the label. The bleaching agent should be applied cold and the clothes should not be allowed to soak for more than 60 minutes. Do not use iron, copper or brass containers.

DRYING

Fold heavy clothes under the clothes line or clothes horse so that they do not become misshapen.

Do not dry clothes under direct sunlight or in high wind.

If clothes are dried on an indoors clothes line, make sure that there is an adequate draft.

Knitted garments should be folded in a towel and placed to dry horizontally. They should not be left to dry in direct sunlight or close to a dryer. When taken from the clothes line, they should be stretched and folded adequately in order to recover the original shape and to make ironing easier.

IRONING

Separate the clothes according to the temperature recommended on the label. Begin by ironing clothes with a recommended lower temperature.

Preferably, iron clothes while they are still slightly damp.

When changing the temperature, wait a few minutes before recommencing ironing.

Pay special attention to the metal coating of ironing boards, heat reflexion and steam impermeability may raise the pre-selected temperature.

After ironing, clean the base of the still-warm iron with a damp cloth.

KNOWING THE MATERIALS

NATURAL MATERIALS

WOOL - Is an excellent heat insulator, with great power of absorption and great recovering capacity. Will shrink when washed at high temperatures. Becomes misshapen if hung to dry. Tends to go yellowish or to lose colour if improperly cared for.

SILK - Resistant, light material, pleasant to the touch, colours are fast. Does not react well to high temperatures or centrifuging. When there are stains, a professional should be consulted. Should be ironed at low temperatures, without steam. This material is sensitive to perspiration and friction.

COTTON - Is cool, comfortable, highly resistant to tearing and friction. Resistant to ironing and will shrink if washed at high temperatures. As colours are not very fast, the first washing should be carried out separately.

LINEN - Fresh and pleasant to the touch, resistant to soiling. Should always be washed by hand, should not be centrifuged or washed at high temperatures. Resistant to ironing. Great tendency to wrinkle.

RAMIE - With features similar to linen. Cool, resistant, should always be hand-washed and at low temperatures. Should not be centrifuged. Great tendency to wrinkle.

ARTIFICIAL MATERIALS

VISCOSE/RAYON/ACETATE/MODAL - Silky to the touch, fast colours. Should not be centrifuged, as they tend to lose their shape. Low resistance when damp, tend to burn easily.

SYNTHETIC MATERIALS

POLYAMIDE/ELASTANE/ACRYLIC/POLYESTER - Quite resistant, do not wrinkle and colours are fast. Should be washed in lukewarm water and ironed at low temperatures, without steam. They burn easily and accumulate static electricity.

JEANS


Should be washed inside out, separately, or with similarly coloured clothes. Stain removers must not be applied. They should not be dry-cleaned.


LABELS

WASHING


 - hand- or machine- washing

MACHINE-WASHING:

 - the number shown in the tub indicates the maximum temperature, in degrees centigrade, to be used for washing.

 - the line under the tub indicates that mechanical agitation should be reduced.

HAND-WASHING:

 - hand-washing only. Maximum temperature 30°'b0C. Do not rub or wring.

 - must not be washed.

BLEACHING AGENT

 - whiteners or bleaching agents can be used.

 - whiteners or bleaching agents must not be used.

DRY-CLEANING


 - the letters inside the circle indicate the solvents in dry-cleaning.

 - the line at the bottom indicates precautions and restrictions.

 - dry-cleaning with all current solvents

 - dry-cleaning with perchloroethylene, fluorated solvents and mineral extracts

 - dry-cleaning with mineral extracts


 - must not be dry-cleaned

IRONING

The dots inside the iron indicate the highest ironing temperatures. These dots also appear on most irons.

 - iron at high temperature. Maximum 200°'b0C. Ex: cotton, linen

 - iron at average temperature. Maximum 150°'b0C. Ex: wool, polyester

 - iron at low temperature. Maximum 110°'b0C. Ex: silk, rayon, acetate

 - must not be ironed

DRYING

 - can go in the dryer

 - cannot go in the dryer

 - dry on clothes line

 - hang without wringing

 - dry horizontally, without stretching

HOW TO REMOVE SOME STAINS

Before removing any stain, test the method (on a hidden part of the material) to make sure that the procedure will not damage the garment.

Ballpoint pen –'96 rub the spot with alcohol and then wash.

Blood –'96 wash in lukewarm water and detergent. If the stain is already dry, allow to soak for some time.

Candle wax –'96 iron the spot under absorbent paper.

Creases –'96 wash with bioactive detergent.

Drinks: coffee, soft drinks, cocoa - soak in water with detergent for a few minutes and then wash.

Grass -'96 apply detergent and then wash.

Grease (butter, olive-oil) -'96 sprinkle with talcum powder. Let stand for a few hours, then brush the garment.

If the stain is already dry, apply a stain remover and wash or dry-clean.

Ice cream -'96 wash the garment in the usual way, if the stain persists apply a stain remover and wash again.

Lipstick -'96 rub the spot with detergent. Allow the detergent to act for a few minutes and then wash.

Nail varnish - rub the spot with varnish remover, wash immediately.

Wine - wipe immediately with absorbent paper, rinse and wash normally