

## CARING FOR A FABRIC YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON

### DAILY CARE TIPS

With proper care, the beautiful and natural qualities of wool can be maintained for years. Follow these simple care tips to ensure the lasting beauty of your wool garments and household items.

- Remove spots and stains promptly.
- Brush wool clothing after each wearing to remove surface soil. Use a damp sponge for finer wool knit fabrics. This will revive the nap if there is one.
- If wool gets wet, dry at room temperature away from heat.
- Empty pockets and remove belts from garments, then hang with closures zipped or buttoned on shaped or padded hangers. Store knits such as sweaters gently folded in drawers.
- Hanging a wool garment between wearings, allows the fiber to shed wrinkles and return to the original shape.
- To refresh wool garments quickly, hang them in a steamy bathroom. Moisture from the steam will remove wrinkles.

### PRESSING WOOL

Steaming wool is always the preferred method for further removing wrinkles and revitalizing garment structure for wear. The following steps should be used when pressing is desired.

- Always use the steam wool setting on the iron; wool should not be pressed totally dry.
- When possible, press on the reverse or interior side of the fabric.
- When it is necessary to press on the exterior side of the fabric, use a press cloth to avoid a shine.
- Note: Extra scraps of wool fabric make excellent press cloths; they help to preserve the resilient texture of woolsens.
- Lower and lift the iron; don't slide it back and forth.
- Prevent imprinting inside detail by placing a piece of brown craft paper or tissue paper under folds, seams or darts.

### STORING WOOL

The same chemistry that makes wool fiber resilient, durable and breathable, also makes wool also makes wool susceptible to moths and carpet beetles for garments not regularly used. Since insects are attracted to areas of the cloth that are soiled with food stains or body oil, clothing kept clean in storage while not in use is the most effective protection.

- Have wool items cleaned before packing them away. Cleaning will also kill insect larvae.
- Pack clothes in airtight containers—well-sealed garment bags or boxes and trunks with secure lids. Cold storage in temperatures of 40 degrees (4°C) or lower further discourages insects.
- Cedar closets and trunks are a recommended storage material; avoid the toxic use of moth balls.
- Keep your closets, dresser drawers and storage containers clean.

Before deciding on a cleaning method for wool, **look for the care instruction label.** When a label does not provide detailed washing directions, follow the instructions below.

### HAND WASHING WOOL

A quick hand wash is an excellent way to clean wool. Follow these suggestions when laundering woolen garments that are labeled “hand washable.”

1. Wash in lukewarm or cold water using a mild soap or liquid detergent (which contains no bleach).
2. Soak for 3-5 minutes, gently squeezing suds through without twisting or wringing the garment.
3. Rinse twice in clean water that is the same temperature as the wash water.
4. Gently squeeze out excess water and roll the garment in a towel to absorb excess water.
5. Lay flat to dry away from sunlight and direct heat.

### MACHINE WASHING WOOL

Follow the “washable” label closely or utilize the following steps for best results:

1. Set the machine for gentle action at a short cycle.
2. Set the water temperature at cool or lukewarm.
3. Use a mild soap or detergent that contains no bleach. If it’s the powdered variety, make sure it is completely dissolved before adding any garments to the machine.
4. Some machine washable garments may indicate the ability to tumble-dry on low heat without the worry of shrinkage. Otherwise, follow steps 4 and 5 under “Hand Washing Wool” for drying.

Check the care label for stain and spot removal instructions and try to treat as soon as possible. First, dampen the area with cold water or seltzer, then blot dry with an absorbent clean cloth. If that doesn't do the trick, here are some more specific tips on how to properly treat a variety of stains.

#### **COCKTAILS**

Dab lightly with an absorbent, lint-free cloth to remove as much excess liquid as possible. Sponge the area sparingly with a mix of warm water and 1/2 rubbing alcohol.

#### **RED WINE OR FRUIT JUICE**

Immediately dab the stain with a 3:1 mixture of rubbing alcohol and water.

#### **BLACK COFFEE**

Mix equal parts alcohol and white vinegar and soak a lint-free cloth in the solution. Gently dab the stained area then apply pressure with an absorbent cloth to draw the coffee from the fabric.

#### **CHOCOLATE, WHITE COFFEE OR TEA**

Dab gently around the edge of the stain with a cloth soaked in rubbing alcohol. Then follow instructions for black coffee.

#### **BUTTER, GREASE OR SAUCES**

Lightly scrape the surface of the stain with a spoon or knife to remove any excess oil. Then soak a lint-free cloth in rubbing alcohol and gently dab the area.

#### **BLOOD**

Remove excess blood immediately with a damp sponge, then gently dab the area using undiluted white vinegar followed by cold water.

#### **INK OR BALLPOINT PEN**

Dab gently with a lint-free cloth soaked in white spirit. Repeat the action with a cloth soaked in diluted white vinegar or rubbing alcohol.

#### **LIPSTICK OR MAKEUP**

Rub gently with a lint-free cloth soaked in turpentine or spot cleaning spray or fluid. Rinse with mild soapy water.

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## *Takeaways*

- 01 Check label for care instructions
- 02 Use cold water for stain removal