

The Best Ways
to Keep Your
Favorite Garments
LIKE NEW

While Avoiding
High Dry
Cleaning Bills



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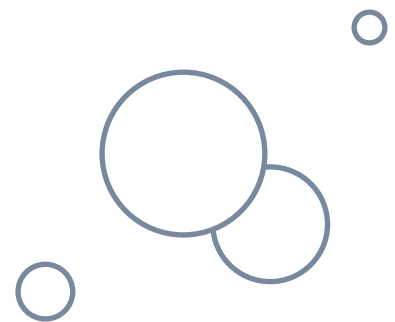
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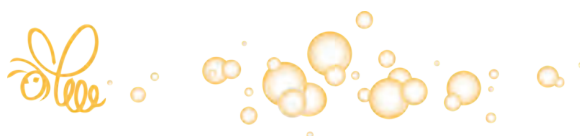


Introduction

Everyone's favorite clothes are important to them. Some are saved for special occasions, some are worn everyday, and some are just so special that you can't bring yourself to admit that (probably) they're a bit worn out by now...

Keeping your favorite garments feeling like new for as long as possible takes knowledge, thought and commitment. But with the **BEST** and **WORST** practices that we've compiled for you below - you'll certainly be on the right track. Here, we provide you with some top tips for preventing discoloration, maintaining different fabrics, and catering your washing methods to sensitive skin. We'll also outline exactly why dry cleaning services are so expensive and provide you with the information to spot the particularly bad ones.

So get your comfiest garments on and settle in!



The BEST Practices



1. Buy Quality Pieces.

This doesn't actually have a lot to do with laundry methods but it would be foolish to not begin with this. The basic fact is that the higher the quality of the clothes you own, the longer they will last. Have a browse through your wardrobe and think about the items you spend a lot of time wearing - these are the ones that it's worth spending a few dollars more on. Look at it as an investment.

2. Use A Delicates Bag.

A delicates bag is key to ensuring delicate underwear and garments don't rip in the wash. It's

these extra little bits of care that really make the difference to the lifespan of a piece of clothing. Intimate pieces need even more preserving so get yourself a delicates bag as soon as possible and keep those undergarments fresh!

3. Get The Amount Right.

In washing too many of your clothes, you are endanger of wasting a lot of water. This isn't good for the environment. Yet washing too many of your clothes does actually damage them in the long run. You've got to get the amounts right. It might take a little extra time, but it'll be worth it.



4. Reduce The Amount Of Detergent - And Use The Right Kind!

Detergent is harmful to the environment, so we're going to let you into a little secret; it is estimated that you probably only need half of the suggested amount printed on detergent bottles to wash your clothes in the healthiest, eco-friendly way. Overuse of detergent can dull the colors of your clothes and stiffen them up. Non-bio detergent is best for people with sensitive skin but listen to your own discomfort. Sometimes even milder formulas might be necessary.

5. Wash Dark Clothes Inside Out

This is a great tip for preventing discoloration. Washing your dark clothes, and even delicates, inside out means that the fabrics that will get that extra little bit of protection while still emerging from the washing machine fully clean. It's perfect!

6. Use Sensitive Skin Fabric Softener

Even if you aren't predisposed to sensitive skin, sensitive skin fabric softener can still be a great way to wash your clothes without ruining them. Certain non-fragranced formulas are said to be the best but it's important to do some experimenting to find out which exact fabric softener causes the least irritation.



7. Wash At A Low Temperature

This could be something you already know - or, even, that you view as self-explanatory - but just in case you don't: washing your garments at low temperatures is a surefire way to protect them. Using a gentle and natural laundry detergent at a low temperature is an even better way. Yes, it takes a little bit longer but perfection takes time!

8. *Pay Attention To Care Labels.*

Your clothes need care just like you do and all of them come with direct instructions detailing how they should be cared for. These are worth listening to. Different materials need different approaches and what might be good for your favorite cardigan definitely isn't the best thing for those denim jeans you wear every Saturday. Pay careful attention to each instruction on each label and adapt your washing methods accordingly.



9. *Air Dry*

Air drying your garments is a must. Not only does it smell great, air drying is also much better for your clothes' health and the planet. Tumble drying can ruin a lot of the more delicate fabrics over time and uses a lot of energy. A simple swap to air drying is better for everyone!

10. *Store Properly*

An appropriate last tip because it'll always be the final step in your laundry washing. Correctly storing your clothes post-clean prolongs the lifespan of any garment.

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10. *Store Properly* (continued)

The perfect storing place will be cool and dry and protected from the damp, sunlight and heat (all of which can damage your clothes). Another thing to remember is to not overfill your wardrobe! Your clothes need breathing space. This will prevent wrinkling and color loss.



The WORST Practices



1. Paying For Expensive Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning can be very expensive and you need to know when it's worth it and when it's not. Some clothing labels will read "dry clean" while others will read "dry clean only". Notice the difference here.

Manufacturers are only required to list one method of cleaning so make a sensible judgement call. In our experience, clothes with "dry clean" on the care label don't always need to be dry cleaned. So save your pennies.

Some dry cleaners also have bad practices themselves; too many don't distill their solvent after each cleaning process, for example, simply because

it's too expensive and might detract from their own profits. Make sure that any dry cleaner that you use isn't ripping you off and has your clothing and bank balance in mind.

2. Paying For Slow Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning is expensive but it can also take ages. Some services report a turnaround time of 1 - 2 weeks! Despite the fact that these times vary based on the individual service and the volume of clothes they've received each week, you've still got to make sure you aren't wasting your cash on a service that just isn't working hard for you. Some dry cleaners don't actually have the equipment on site to do the dry cleaning! These are all things you can check with your nearest dry cleaner so be sure to know the facts before you get your wallet out.

3. Toxic Dry Cleaning Damages The Environment

This is something that scientists hadn't realized until recently but the main cleaning solvent used in dry cleaning (perchloroethylene) poses serious risks to human health and the surrounding environment. Not to mention that dunking your clothes in chemicals certainly isn't the best way to properly maintain them.

4. The Dry Cleaning Gamble

For many dry cleaners there are too many clothes and not enough time. This is why for you, as a consumer, dry cleaning will always be a gamble. Speedy dry cleaning can result in bad care and delayed turnaround times; buttons will go missing and old stains won't be removed. This isn't the sort of gamble you should be taking with your favorite clothes.

5. Not Spotting Stains Quick Enough

The quicker you spot a stain, and the quicker you deal with it, the better. You certainly can't be waiting a week or more for it to be dealt with. Stains worsen and strengthen over time so as soon as you notice one get straight to dealing with it. Some might need dry cleaning but you'd be amazed what you can do with home remedies and a little bit of care.



