



Making the Most of Your Clothing Investment: Clothing Storage

- Allow clothing items, including shoes, at least a **24-hour rest period** between wearings.
- **Air** clothing after wearing and before it is stored. A good airing of several hours or overnight allows the moisture absorbed from the body during wearing to evaporate. Airing also helps deodorize garments naturally.
- **Treat and remove spots and stains** as soon as possible. Use “emergency” techniques if necessary to facilitate speedy removal. Be sure the person who does your laundry or drycleaning knows where stains are plus the type of stain.
- **Never store clothing dirty.** Soil and stains attract insects. When allowed to remain in clothing, soil and/or stains may become permanent or can cause permanent damage.
- **Do not over wash or over dryclean** your clothing. Clothing should be washed or drycleaned only when soiled or stained. Garments can be renewed between wearings by using a clothes brush, airing or by using a drycleaning kit (Dryel®, Custom Cleaner®, etc.).
- Wool garments may be renewed/refreshed frequently without pressing if properly hung on a hanger and permitted to hang in a steam-filled room. Wrinkles will also disappear.
- Never hang a garment over a door knob or on a hook unless the garment has a loop in the neckline provided for this purpose. Even with a loop, limit use for prolong hanging.
- **Use the correct storage technique** for your clothing—flat storage for most knits and stretchy items, hangers for hangable clothes.
 - Shaped wooden hangers or padded hangers:* tailored coats, suit jackets and tailored dresses.
 - Tubular plastic hangers:* all-purpose hanger for lightweight blouses/shirts, dresses, lightweight slacks/pants.
 - Bar hangers:* slacks/pants
 - Clamp hangers:* slacks/pants, skirts
- Clean and repair shoes/boots before storing. **Store footwear in its original cardboard box**, old pillowcase, or container that will allow shoes/boots to get air or breathe. Tightly sealed plastic boxes can promote mildew and mold on leather shoes/boots. Shoe “ties,” shoe “stuffers” will help maintain the size and shape of your shoes/boots.

- ***Do not store clothing in plastic bags*** as plastic can create a moist-rich environment that may lead to mildew. Take special care to see that freshly laundered and drycleaned clothing is completely dry before storing.
- When storing seasonal clothing, or linens that may not be used for several months, avoid using fabric softeners, starch or any type of fabric sizing. These items can attract silverfish and crickets and support the growth of mildew and mold.
- If you must use bleach on items that are to be stored for several months at a time, be sure to increase the number of rinse cycles. Put items through an extra washing/rinsing cycle using water only. If bleach is allowed to stay in the garment, it can create yellow spots and/or weak areas where breaks in the fiber can occur.
- ***Read and follow the garment/household textile care symbols.*** Experimentation can be costly.
- ***When laundering, read and follow the product label.*** Use the amount recommended on the package.
- ***Use good laundering procedures.*** Teach members of your family how to do laundry properly. Knowing how to do laundry is a *life skill* that must be learned; we are not born with this information!
- ***Select a drycleaner with as much care as choosing a doctor or dentist.*** The life of your clothing *may* depend on it!
- Help your drycleaner and home laundress take good care of your clothing. Remove jewelry and external trim, clean out pockets, and point out known spots and stains. If stains or spots remain, return items and explain as soon as possible. Return items to the drycleaner if any type of odor is detected.
- Take time to organize clothing in closets as well as drawers or other storage locations.
- Do not overfill closets or drawers. Permit air to circulate among and between items.
- Leave closet doors open occasionally to permit air to circulate. This deters insects and freshens clothing.
- Make a point to clean out completely, vacuum, and wash down closets once or twice a year. Sponge and wipe out drawers.
- Furs are best stored and cared for by a professional. When you have your fur a home during the winter, always hang on a padded or shaped hanger. Give your fur room to breathe in your closet. Never put it in a plastic bag. An old sheet can be turned into an attractive cloth cover to protect your fur from dust.