

**FABRIC
AFTERCARE
MANUAL**

Aftercare Instructions for FABRIC

TYPES OF FABRIC

1. CLEANING CODES & CARE METHODS
2. CARE SYMBOLS & THEIR REPRESENTATION
3. PREVENTING MILDEW IN FABRICS
4. REMOVING MILDEW FROM FABRICS
5. BASIC STAIN REMOVAL METHODS FOR UPHOLSTERY
6. STAIN REMOVAL METHODS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF FABRICS & LEATHER
7. TYPES OF STAINS & HOW TO REMOVE THEM
8. CLEANING SPECIAL FABRICS
9. CLEANING DRAPERIES

1. CLEANING CODES & CARE METHODS

1.1 Code "S"

To prevent overall soil, frequent vacuuming or light brushing to remove dust and grime is recommended. Spot clean using a mild water-free solvent or dry cleaning product. Clean only in a well ventilated room and avoid any product containing carbon tetrachloride which is highly toxic. Pretest small area before proceeding. Cleaning by a professional fabric cleaning service only is recommended.

1.2 Code "W"

Use water base upholstery cleaner only.

1.3 Code "WS"

To prevent overall soil, frequent vacuuming or light brushing to remove dust and grime is recommended. Spot clean, with a mild solvent, an upholstery shampoo, or the foam from a mild detergent. When using a solvent or dry cleaning product, follow instructions carefully and clean only in a well-ventilated room. Avoid any product which is highly toxic. With either method, pretest a small area before proceeding. Use a professional furniture cleaning service when an overall soiled condition has been reached.

1.4 Code "XS"

Clean this fabric only by vacuuming or light brushing to prevent accumulation of dust or grime. Water-based foam cleaners or solvent-based cleaning agents of any kind may cause excessive shrinking, staining or distortion of the surface pile and therefore should not be used. A word of caution on cleaning: never remove cushion covers or arm caps for separate cleaning. It may destroy the backing, cause shrinking and color changes.

1.4 Code "XS"

Spot clean with upholstery shampoo, foam from a mild detergent, or mild dry cleaning solvent. Pretest a small, inconspicuous area before proceeding. Do not saturate. Pile fabrics may require brushing with a non-metallic, stiff bristle brush to restore appearance. Hot water extraction or steam cleaning is not a recommended cleaning method. Cushion casings should not be removed and laundered or dry cleaned. To prevent overall soiling, frequent vacuuming or light brushing with a non-metallic, stiff bristle brush to remove dust and grime is recommended. When cleaning a spill, blot immediately to remove spilled material. Clean spots or stains from the outside to the middle of affected area to prevent circling.

2. CARE SYMBOLS & THEIR REPRESENTATIONS

2.1 Washing

The washing machine is represented by a wash bucket and the number of dots inside the bucket indicates the highest temperature you can safely use to wash your item of clothing. Sometimes the actual temperature (in centigrade) will be written instead of dots.

You can always safely wash at a lower temperature, but please be careful that some items of clothing should not go in the washing machine at all.



Machine wash cold 30°C or 85°F



Machine wash cold 40°C or 105°F



Machine wash cold 50°C or 120°F

Sometimes a further indication is given with the washing laundry symbols as follows:



Synthetics - If there is a single line underneath the wash bucket, this indicates that you should wash the item in the synthetics or permanent press cycle of your washing machine which is normally a shorter and less intensive washing.



Delicate - If there are two lines underneath the wash bucket, then you should wash the item on the gentle cycle of your washing machine.



Hand Washing - Indicated by a hand.

2.2 Bleaching

Whether you can safely use bleach on the item or should refrain from using bleach, this will be indicated by a triangle, according to the following code:



Bleach as needed



Non - chlorine bleach only



Do not bleach

2.3 Drying

The dryer is represented by a square with a circle inside it. The number of dots inside of the circle indicates the temperature which is safe for you to dry your clothing item. Just as with washing, you can always dry at a lower temperature and air drying is always an option over machine drying.



Tumble dry, no heat



Tumble dry, medium heat



Tumble dry, low heat



Tumble dry, high heat

Dryer symbols may be further refined in the same way the washing machine symbol is.



One line underneath the dryer symbol indicates you should dry this item on a permanent press cycle of your dryer.



Two lines underneath the dryer symbol indicates you should dry this item on the gentle cycle.

You may even find the following laundry symbols on your clothing:



2.4 Ironing

Ironing recommendations are given using a symbol that looks like an iron. Once again dots are indicative of recommended temperatures for your iron. Many irons these days have their control dial coded with these same symbols, making your job easier.



2.5 Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning recommendations are indicated by a circle. The letters and symbols that are included with this are indications for the dry cleaners to follow.



3. PREVENTING MILDEW IN FABRICS

Keep Fabrics Dry

Never let clothing or other fabric articles lie around in a damp condition. Dry soiled fabrics before putting them into the hamper. Sprinkle only as many articles as can be ironed in a day. Shake out and dry those not ironed.

Dry washed fabrics thoroughly and quickly. Fabrics dried slowly may get sour and musty smelling; a sign of mold growth. Wash or dry-clean before storing as soiled articles are more likely to mildew than clean ones. Unless you know that your laundry starch contains a mildew inhibitor, do not leave starch in fabrics you are going to store. Molds feed on starch.

From time to time on warm, dry days, sun and air the articles stored in closets. It pays to occasionally inspect cotton, rayon, leather, and woolen items stored in garment bags. A closed bag, dampness, and hot summer weather make ideal growing conditions for molds.

4. REMOVING MILDEW IN FABRICS

Remove mildew spots as soon as you discover them. Do not give the mold growth a chance to weaken or rot the material. Brush off any surface growth outdoors to prevent scattering the mildew spores in the house. Always sun and air fabrics thoroughly. If any mildew spots remain, treat washable articles as described below. Dry-clean non-washable articles.

Wash mildew-stained articles at once with detergent and water. Rinse well and dry in the sun. If any stain remains, use lemon juice and salt or another bleach. If you use a bleach, be sure to first test coloured fabrics for colourfastness.

4.1 Using Lemon Juice And Salt

Moisten stain with a mixture of lemon juice and salt. Spread in the sun to bleach. Rinse thoroughly.

4.2 Using Peroxygen Bleach

Mix 1 to 2 tablespoons of sodium perborate or a powdered bleach containing sodium perborate or potassium monopersulfate with 1 pint of water. Use hot water if it is safe for the fabric otherwise use lukewarm water.

Sponge the stain or soak the stained area in the solution, or sprinkle the dry powder directly on the dampened stain. Let solution or powder remain on the stain for 30 minutes or longer, then rinse thoroughly.

If mildew stains have been on the fabric for some time, it may be necessary to soak the fabric in the bleach solution overnight. Applying sodium perborate solution at or near the boiling point may remove stubborn stains. Be sure that this treatment is safe for the fabric first before proceeding.

4.3 Chlorine Bleach

Mix 2 tablespoons of liquid chlorine bleach with 1 quart of warm water.

Sponge the stain or soak the stained area in the solution from 5 to 15 minutes, then rinse. An additional soaking in weak vinegar (2 tablespoons to a cup of water) will stop further bleach action.

Never use a chlorine bleach on silk, wool, or Spandex fabrics. Some fabrics with wash-and-wear or other special finishes may be damaged by chlorine bleaches. Articles with such finishes usually have a warning on the label attached to the garment when it is sold.

5. BASIC STAIN REMOVAL METHODS FOR UPHOLSTERY

- Remove excess soil promptly, by scraping off residue with a dull knife or spoon and/or blotting up spills with absorbent materials.
- Be sure to pre-test in an inconspicuous spot. In general, fabrics can be cleaned if they do not fade or shrink.
- Do not remove cushion from the cover.
- General cleaning is done with 1 pint of cool or warm water and 2 teaspoons of mild dish detergent (except rayon which will shrink-use dry-cleaning fluids).
- Never soak; use the foam from the solution. Use sparingly.
- No harsh rubbing; use soft white cloth or a sponge.
- Rinse with a damp sponge.
- Rapid drying is essential.

6. STAIN REMOVAL METHODS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF FABRICS & LEATHER

6.1 Outdoor Furniture Cushions

Most new cushions are covered with coated or treated strong synthetic fabrics that are not damaged by summer weather and can be left outside all season. Polyacrylics that feel like cotton but are water repellent and mildew resistant and open-weave polyesters (like tire cord fiber) coated with polyvinyl chloride (PVC), or vinyl are easy care.

Fillings are polyester which resists mildew and doesn't hold water. Seams should be stitched with polyester thread, and have buttons that allow water to drain out.

6.1.1 Care

Cover cushions with towel if you have applied suntan lotion on yourself. The fabric and sun lotion when hit by sun's ultra-violet rays can create a chemical reaction that will stain the fabric.

If wet by heavy rain, dry cushions faster by taking out of frames and standing up on sides.

If you have cushions filled with urethane foam, these are not completely weather proof. Neither are the covers, cotton or fabrics other than those listed above. So protect such cushions from rain.

6.1.2 Cleaning

Wash with mild detergent suds and rinse. Follow label directions for other procedures. Some manufacturers recommend a flushing procedure with a hose to remove soil.

Be sure that all cushions are completely dry before storing for winter. Never wrap them in plastic for storage.

For best results, store in a dry place.

Some manufacturers recommend "deep cleaning" cushions at the end of the summer with a solution of 1 cup liquid chlorine bleach and 1 cup powdered laundry detergent to 3 gallons warm water. Flush cushions with solution on paved driveway or patio, and let them soak for 30 minutes so that the bleach can destroy any mildew inside.

Scrub any stains with a plastic scrub brush on coated polyesters or use a synthetic sponge for acrylics. Then rinse thoroughly with cold water.

Dry several days in sun until thoroughly dry all the way through before storing. Follow this process ONLY IF recommended by manufacturer of your synthetic cushions.

NEVER put undiluted chlorine bleach on cushions. Dilute in water as directed.

6.2 Vinyl Upholstery

6.2.1 Regular Cleaning

Wash with mild detergent and water. Use a soft bristle brush for stubborn soil. Rinse and dry. Some household cleaners and solvents remove plasticizers from vinyl, making them brittle. Abrasive cleaners scratch the smooth surface.

Sometimes letting detergent solution stand on surface and letting them "soak" for a few minutes loosens soil.

6.2.2 Special Cleaning

Vinyl cleaners sold in furniture stores or auto stores help clean stubborn soil on vinyl upholstery. Vinyl upholstery will absorb stains and dye from fabrics that crock or bleed (like crocking blue jeans on white vinyl or bright prints that bleed). A vinyl protective finish, sold at some stores, helps protect upholstery and resists or retards absorption of stains.

Act at once to remove stains from vinyl. Use a white cloth or paper towels. Keep solvents away from wood or metal parts. When solvents other than water are used to remove a stain, wash the area with detergent and water, rinse and dry.

- (a) Nail polish and polish remover will cause permanent damage if left on the surface. Wipe off quickly. Blot; do not spread the liquid. Sponge lightly with synthetic turpentine or mineral spirits. While nail polish remover or amyl acetate will remove polish, both may affect the vinyl. Use them only if necessary at your own risk.
- (b) Ballpoint pen marks may respond to alcohol. If not, cover area with a white cloth soaked in a 3% solution of hydrogen peroxide and leave it for 30 minutes or overnight.
- (c) Felt tip markers may respond to treatment with mineral spirits.
- (d) Remove substances such as oil paint, shoe heel marks, ink, tar, crayon, grease, shoe polish, ointment and cosmetics with synthetic turpentine or mineral spirits. Use hydrogen peroxide bleach treatment if necessary (see point (b) above).
- (e) Chewing gum should be hardened with ice and chipped off. Remove residue with synthetic turpentine or mineral spirits.

When using solvents suggested in (a), (c) and (d) (turpentine or mineral spirits), use only in a well-ventilated room and avoid breathing fumes or getting it onto your skin. Be sure there is no flame, spark, pilot light or cigarette in the area, as they are flammable. Air out cloths used, to evaporate solvent before disposing.

6.3 Leather Upholstery

Because leathers vary, always consult the manufacturer's care instructions first. Frequent dusting is the only way to clean most leathers with limited surface protection. An art-gum eraser may remove ordinary dirt. The uncoated surface readily absorbs liquids and oily substances. Stains may be impossible to remove. For the same reason, leather creams may create blotches.

Coated leathers, on the other hand, resist staining. They can be occasionally washed with a mild soap and water, wiped with a slightly damp cloth and buffed dry. If desired, use leather cream once or twice a year.

Do not use oils, furniture polishes, or varnishes on leather because these products may contain solvents that might make the leather sticky.

6.3.1 Removing Mildew From Leather

To protect leather against mildew, treat with low-pressure aerosol sprays that carry specific directions. Shoe and luggage stores may have these aerosol sprays that have been specially made for leather goods. Before treating the article, test the spray on a small area where it will not show. Do this to see whether it will change the color of the leather. Repeat the treatment as directed on the label.

PRECAUTION: Do not inhale the mist from the spray and do not use spray near flame. Follow all precautions given on the can for your own safety.

Another way to protect leather goods is to apply a good wax dressing. Some commercially available waxes or silicone resins have anti-mildew properties. However, some shoe dressings contain anti-fungicidal ingredients that might discolor white or light-colored leather.

To remove mildew from leather goods, wipe with a cloth moistened with diluted alcohol (1 cup denatured or rubbing alcohol to 1 cup water). Dry in a current of air. If mildew remains, wash with thick suds made from a mild soap or detergent, saddle soap, or a soap containing a germicide or fungicide. Then wipe with a damp cloth and dry in an airy place.

7. TYPES OF STAINS & HOW TO REMOVE THEM

7.1 Blood

(CLEANING INGREDIENTS MUST BE COLD)

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) to a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.2 Beer

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.3 Candle Wax

1. Remove with heated iron into absorbent paper towel or napkin.
2. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
3. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.

7.4 Candy (Sugar)

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one with the neutral detergent.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.5 Cheese

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one with the neutral detergent.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.6 Chewing Gum

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.

7.7 Chocolate

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.8 Coffee

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.9 Cola Drinks

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.

7.10 Cosmetics (Mascara)

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.11 Crayon

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.12 Egg (Raw)

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.13 Earth (Dirt)

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one with the detergent.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.14 Food Colouring Or Dye

1. Seek the help of a professional fabric cleaner.

7.15 Fruits And Juices

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Rinse with white household vinegar. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.16 Glue (School Glue, White)

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.17 Gravy

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clear water. Blot.

7.18 Hand Lotion

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.19 Ice-cream

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.20 Ink (Ballpoint)

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backing or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.21 Ketchup

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.22 Marking Ink Pen

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.23 Milk

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one. Blot.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.24 Nail Polish

1. Apply nail polish remover (Acetone). Blot.
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.25 Paint (Oil-Base)

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid, or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.
4. If stain persists, seek the help of a professional fabric cleaner.

7.26 Paint (Latex)

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.27 Rubber Cement

1. Sponge with a small amount of dry-cleaning solvent. Blot. (Use small amounts to prevent any possible damage to sizings, backings, or stuffing materials. Do not use gasoline, lighter fluid or carbon tetrachloride).
2. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
3. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.28 Soft Drinks

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clear water. Blot.

7.29 Soy Sauce

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.30 Tea

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

7.31 Fresh Urine

NOTE: Directions listed here are for a fresh stain. If the stain has dried, please read directions listed under "Old Urine".

1. Blot.
2. Sponge with clean water. Blot again.
3. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
4. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
5. Sponge with clean water. Blot again.

7.32 Old Urine

NOTE: Directions listed here are for a dried stain. If the stain is fresh, please read directions listed for Fresh Urine.

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Mix one tablespoon of household ammonia with half a cup of water. Blot.
4. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
5. Sponge with clean water. Blot again.

7.33 Wine

1. Mix one teaspoon of a neutral detergent (a mild detergent containing no alkalis or bleaches) with a cup of luke-warm water. Blot.
2. Mix one-third cup of white household vinegar with two-thirds cup of water. Blot.
3. Repeat step one.
4. Sponge with clean water. Blot.

8. CLEANING SPECIAL FABRICS

8.1 Pile

Pile fabrics tend to stain more readily due to long yarns. They may be cleaned satisfactorily at home with dry powder cleaners, but test first. Wet cleaning of velvets, etc. should be done professionally.

If protected with stain resistant finish, blot quickly and gently with lint-free cloth. If stain remains, spot clean by wiping the stain in the direction of the pile. Brush lightly during drying to prevent matting.

If unprotected, pre-test in an inconspicuous area for discoloration or pile distortion. If fabric proves to be colourfast, sponge lightly with the appropriate cleaning agent.

8.2 Olefins

Spots and spills can easily be removed if they have not soaked through to backing, because the fabric has a built-in ability to resist stains. Water-based cleaners are usually sufficient, though solvents can also be used. However, use solvents sparingly for they will damage the latex backing found on most of these fabrics. DO NOT dry clean or machine wash.

8.3 Sheer Curtains

NOTE: When selecting sheer curtain fabrics, crease-resistant fibers or finishes will look best after washing.

- (a) Remove from windows, only the number of curtains you can launder at one time. Handle gently so as not to create wrinkles or creases unnecessarily. With a pencil or ball-point pen, make a very light dot on inside of heading pleat where hook is inserted so you will know where to insert the hook after laundering, so all will be of uniform placement. (The heading fabric may be damp when hooks are replaced. Fabric may be weaker when damp. Prompt replacement of hooks means less opportunity to wrinkle fabrics.)

- (b) Fill washing machine with cool to lukewarm water. Add a non-precipitating water conditioner and dissolve it in water (It is of particular help if sheer fabrics are excessively soiled).
- (c) Add curtains to washing machine water. Never overload. Plan to use about a half-load in full-load washer of water. Press curtains down into water. Turn washer on gentle for about 2 minutes. Allow to soak about 5 minutes. Move washer dial to 'rinse'. Let water containing loose dust drain away. (Very delicate curtains can be put in a net-mesh laundry bag for washing.)
- (d) Reset washer dial to refill with cool or lukewarm water. Dissolve detergent in pan of warm water before adding to washer full of water and curtains. This eliminates lumps of detergent sticking to fabric.
- (e) Run washer about 2 to 3 minutes on 'gentle'. Turn dial to 'drain'. Turn dial to 'rinse'. Do not leave washing machine to run cycle by itself for fear curtains might tangle and tear.
- (f) Be sure last rinse is of cold water.
- (g) There will be fewer wrinkles if fabric softener is used in last rinse, but be sure softener is diluted in several quarts of water before adding to washer.
- (h) Remove curtains from washer. Place sheer curtains in dryer with 2 or 3 small dry hand towels. Turn dryer to 'cool air' or 'permanent press' cycle for 2 to 3 minutes. The dry towels will absorb water droplets clinging to curtains, rather than drying the fabric. Remove from dryer (still damp) and spread flat on floor, or sofa, table, etc., while you fasten curtain hooks in one curtain. Using a stepladder, place hooks in place on the rod, preferably stretched or closed. Finger-press hems, untwisting corner weights, or lead band string in lower hem. Proceed to place hooks in next curtain. Allow to dry completely hanging at windows. If hems need ironing, move ironing board in front of window and iron hems after curtains are hung.

- (i) For rod-pocket sheers that slip over a curtain rod, put a piece of scotch tape over the ends of the rods first to keep any rough edges from snagging the curtains.
- (j) Fiberglass curtains should never be washed in washer, or dried in dryer as glass fragments break off. Do not use chlorine bleach. Soak in lukewarm mild suds in large tub. Wear rubber gloves to gently swish around. Do not twist or wring. Drain suds and rinse in clear water. Hang to air dry. Rinse tub thoroughly to remove all glass fibers. Handle gently.

9. CLEANING DRAPERIES

9.1 Regular Cleaning

Regularly remove dust from draperies with either the upholstery nozzle or round dusting brush attachments of vacuum cleaner. This will keep them clean longer.

9.2 Special Cleaning

The fabric and construction determine if draperies should be dry-cleaned or can be washed. Check label instructions. If in doubt, ask a professional dry cleaner. Most lined draperies must be dry-cleaned.

If draperies are machine-washable, follow instructions on label, or in washer manual. Generally soak them, followed by a short, gentle cycle wash. Do not overload.

If draperies are machine-dryable, dry until still damp, and hang up to finish drying. If not labeled machine-dryable, air dry.

Note: Draperies and curtains exposed to a great deal of sunlight, gases and air-borne soils both inside and outside the house, are often weakened, but this does not show up until they are washed or dry cleaned, when they suddenly show deterioration.