

# Care Of Woolen Clothing

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The American wool council tells us that:

“Now is the time for housewives to look carefully at their woolen wealth and to do everything possible to insure against depreciation.”

Wool, the fiber that has been so necessary to health and comfort, is becoming scarce because it is a critical war necessity. The entire 1941 domestic production of wool was required for our armed forces. Two or three times that amount is needed for 1943; 1942 will see less than 15 percent of the 1941 supply of wool available to the consumer. This means less and less wool for civilian use, so we must make every yard of wool material last as long as possible.

## Daily Care Is Important

The life of wool is lengthened by keeping up its appearance.

Brush wool coats and dresses thoroughly after each wearing.

Hang garments on hangers after taking them off.

Let wool rest a day or so before wearing again—this reduces the amount of pressing.

Sun and air woolens occasionally to kill moths, their eggs, and larvae.

Campaign against moths the year 'round.

Reweave tiny holes to prevent their becoming larger.

## Press Wool With Care

Never iron wool! Steam press it—the homemaker at home without a steam iron can use a double pressing cloth of wool and cotton.

To press, place wool cloth over the garment and cover with second cloth, which may be cotton. (These may be stitched together). Dampen the cotton cloth and press by setting iron squarely on cloth, lifting it and setting it down again. Stop

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pressing before garment quits steaming (dry heat is destructive to wool). Use palm of hands or clapper to beat out steam. Hang garment up to dry. Press on wrong side those woolens with unusual weaves or tendency to get shiny. In this case, still place right side of wool garment onto wool pressing cloth stretched over ironing board and use a cotton cloth on wrong side.

Don't let the iron get hot enough to scorch pressing cloth, especially if acetate rayons are in mixture with the wool.

### Clean Woolens Carefully and Thoroughly

Dry cleaning is the best method of cleaning for most woolens. But it **cannot be done** safely at home unless solvents corresponding to Stoddard Specifications (inflammable, but not explosive) are used. **Never use naphtha or gasoline!!! Never dry-clean in the house. Never use a washing machine or a plunger for dry cleaning.**

Wash wool carefully. Felting of wool results in shrinkage and makes it harsh. Nothing can restore it to former softness and beauty. Give wool "special care." Handle carefully when damp. Do not use harsh soap. Avoid sudden extremes of temperature. **Do not rub.**

**Right Way to Wash Wool.**—Use lukewarm, soft water, (zeolight is used in most water softeners and is satisfactory) and neutral soap. A sulphonated alcohol washing compound is available to use in hard water. No curds are formed. Squeeze suds through cloth. **Don't rub.** Rinse generously in lukewarm water. Dry in warm place, not near a fire or in sunlight. Stretch garment into shape while damp. Press other garments while damp with medium-hot iron and wool pressing cloth.

### Special Garments.—

**Sweaters and knitted garments**

- a. Take measurement and draw outline of garment on cardboard. Cut out for pattern on which to dry garment.
- b. Follow basic rules for washing and rinsing.
- c. **Do not rub woolens.**
- d. After blotting out moisture, lay garment flat on towel or paper and return to measurements taken before washing. Pin to pattern if necessary when stretching.
- e. Pressing is usually not necessary; if necessary, use pressing cloth.
- f. Shake or fluff angora. Hang in gentle breeze away from sun.

## Seasonal Care of Woolens

Inventory to determine needs and plan remodeling for next fall. Campaign against moths. Collect all winter items. Inspect for soil. Brush, air, sun all garments not soiled. Use clothes brush rather than whiskbroom. A damp sponge will remove fine dust and powder. Be sure to let garment dry before storing.

Shake the garment to remove dust from fur trim; turn out pockets; turn up collars; turn down sleeve cuffs. Dust and larvae lodge in creases and seams, and need to be removed.

**To Store Woolens.**—Cleanliness is the most important factor in caring for wool. Use airtight, dustproof bags or boxes. Tape folds in cardboard boxes and cover openings.

Fold garments lightly so they will keep their shape. Sprinkle flaked naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene between each fold.

Use wide-shouldered hangers for coats, dresses, and suits hung in portable closets or bags. Stuff sleeves with wadded tissue paper to preserve shape. Do same with folded garments.

Store in cool, dry space.

**Special Care.**—Rain or snow-soaked wool garments should be hung to dry in a moderately warm place. Dry completely before pressing. Do not use artificial heat for drying.

Stains should be removed while still fresh. Strong acids or alkalis damage woolens. Ammonia is used to counteract acid and white vinegar to neutralize alkalis.

Again—"Wools deserve not only the best of daily care, but the most useful of furloughs."