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Laundry Care

About

* Laundry Care is a resource devoted to provide you the best laundry tips. We have gathered expert information from detergent companies, chemists, and people like you! Our guides are perfect for you if you are doing your laundry for the first time (without your parents!) or if you are wondering how to get that peanut butter stain off your silk blouse.

Tips & Tricks

* Washing Machine
  + It’s not just your detergent that gives your clothes their fresh, clean smell. Your washer plays a part, too, so it’s important to keep it clean and give it the care it deserves. Ultimately, if your washer drum is dirty, it doesn’t matter how good your detergent is.
  + If your washer starts to smell, it’s probably due to a buildup of odor-causing residues left behind from laundry soils, detergents and hard-water minerals stuck in the drum. Dirt removed from clothes can stick around in the drum after washing and create a bacterial breeding ground.
  + In this dark, warm and damp environment, these residues not only make your washer smell unpleasant, but also can transfer these odors onto your clothes.
  + Wipe your washer clean every month with soapy water, taking care to clean the inside of the drum as well.
  + Pick Tide’s Washing Machine Cleaner, and simply pour it into the drum. It fights residues and gets to the source of the odors that come from a smelly washer.
  + Run your washer on a hot, empty cycle with Tide Washing Machine Cleaner.
  + Extra tip: For cleaner laundry, avoid overloading your washer.
  + http://tide.com/en-us/washing-machine-101/how-to-use-a-washing-machine/washer-care-tips

Choosing a Detergent

* General purpose detergents are available in liquid, powdered or single dose form. All forms of laundry detergent will clean clothes well. However, liquid detergents are very effective on greasy, oily stains and can be easily used as a pretreater.
* Powdered detergents are usually less expensive to use per load. They are effective on clay and ground-in dirt. Powdered detergents can be problematic if you have extremely cold water or only use cold water for washing because they may not dissolve completely. Always add powdered detergent to the washer drum before clothes and water are added. If you experience problems with residue, mix the detergent with a quart of hot water and add that directly to the washer drum before doing a load of laundry.
* Single dose packs are the most convenient and simple to use. But they are the most expensive to use per load and may take two packs to handle really dirty clothes. Single dose packs are pre-measured for an average soil and size load. If you do large loads of laundry or heavily soiled laundry, you may need to use two.They can also be problematic for households with small children and vulnerable adults because they are often mistaken for candy and can cause poisoning. [Learn to use them correctly and safely](http://laundry.about.com/od/laundrydetergents/qt/How-To-Use-Single-Dose-Laundry-Detergent-Packs-Correctly.htm). Take a look at your family’s needs and that will help you make a decision and using single dose products.
* Liquids, powders and single packs can be used in [all water temperatures](http://laundry.about.com/od/laundrybasics/a/watertemperatures.htm). Both liquid and powder types are available in concentrated or ultra forms. Be sure to read the labels to ensure that you are using the correct amount.
* http://laundry.about.com/od/laundrybasics/a/choosedetergent.htm

Choosing a Fabric Softener

* Does anyone in your family have sensitive skin? If so, stick to the products made for sensitive skin. This doesn’t have to mean that your fabric softener has to be fragrance-free however! Try [Method’s baby squeaky green dryer cloths](http://www.methodhome.com/product.aspx?page=608" \t "_blank). They do exactly what they are designed to do: soften. Stick a used one in your pillow case and let the rice milk and mallow lull you to sleep.
* If you don’t have to consider sensitive skin, and want your clothes to have the unmistakable smell of clean, you have to go with a liquid. A liquid’s fragrance is stronger post-laundry than any sheet.
* If you’re all about the smell, try [Snuggle](http://www.snuggle.com/products/blue-sparkle.aspx" \t "_blank). You are sure to find a scent you like, and will probably enjoy changing it up. They have nine different smells, from Wild Orchid Vanilla Kiss to Sweet Almond Essence. Just reading the names will make you happy.
* http://www.examiner.com/article/choosing-fabric-softeners

How To

* Wash Clothes
  + Always check the labels on your clothing first.
  + Sort out the dirty clothes into different piles, each of which will be washed separately:
  + Prepare all of your clothes. Empty all of your pockets of any pens, money, or important papers (although money can survive a wash).
  + Add cleaning products. Your detergent bottle should have a chart that tells what amount should be used for your wash load.
  + Select the appropriate water temperature. Colors are washed in cold water. Whites, under most circumstances, can be washed in warm water without problem. To kill mites, bed linens (especially pillow-cases) need hot water.
  + Add clothes. Add clothes to the washer but do not over stuff the washer as the clothes won't be cleaned well if there is too much laundry in it.
  + After the clothes are washed, shake them out so they will dry easier and with less wrinkles.
  + http://www.wikihow.com/Do-Laundry
* Remove Stains
  + http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/cleaning/more-techniques/how-to-remove-stains

Essentials

* Washing Machine
  + If you have a small laundry room (or just a laundry corner):   
    Full-sized washers can be 24 to 30-plus inches wide (and some machines sport bulky, contoured fronts that add to the width), so start by grabbing your tape measure. Jot down the dimensions of your space, but also check that the washer will fit through the hallways and doorways on the way into the room. And consider other limiting factors, such as a washer door that will bang into the wall every time you open it. If you're faced with a super-narrow space, a front loader that stacks with the dryer may be your best bet.
  + If your laundry room isn't in the basement:  
    First, make sure the floor is properly reinforced for the weight of the machines. You may want a quieter model with features that reduce vibration and noise during the spin cycle so it's not disruptive to your daily life. And think about splurging for a "fashion" color, since it's likely your machine may be seen by guests more often than if it were hidden downstairs.
  + If you have a ton of wash to do:  
    The tub dimensions are most important, and can range from about 2.45 cubic feet up to 5.6 cubic feet. You'll find the largest capacity on a front loader or in a top loader without the central agitator. And consider bells and whistles like programmable settings (so older kids can help do their laundry with ease) or a pedestal that will save your back from endless stooping.
  + If you don't want to spend a lot:  
    A small budget doesn't necessarily mean a sacrifice in performance, but you'll likely get fewer fancy features. And don't be swayed by trendy colors: You'll save $100 to $200 if you opt for a white model. Traditional no-frill top loaders are the cheapest, but they use more energy to run. Use the Energy Guide estimates to factor in your energy costs over the 10-to-15-year life of the machine.
  + If you want to conserve water and electricity:  
    Front loaders use way less water than traditional top loaders, which have to fill up entirely for the wash and rinse cycles. Opt for an Energy Star model, which reduces electricity and water use by 20% and 35%, respectively, over non-rated models. And check out those Energy Guide labels as a basis for comparison from model to model. However, remember that your actual costs will vary, based on your usage and the utility costs in your area.
  + If you're always fighting tough stains:  
    In our tests, front loaders provided better cleaning results than top loaders. Look for a machine with a special stain-remover or presoaking cycles, or one with a steam feature. A "cool" temperature setting that mixes in a bit of hot water with the cold will help powdered detergent dissolve completely for better stain removal.
  + If you're particular about clothing care:   
    You'll prefer a front-loader or a top-loader without the agitator, which can cause clothing to tangle and is harder on fabric. Some higher-end models have nifty special cycles designed to clean specific materials, from denim to towels to comforters to hand-washables, and more. Also look for custom features like steam for better stain removal, adjustable spin speeds to reduce tangling, and sanitizing cycles to kill germs.
  + http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/appliances/washer-reviews/a21964/washing-machine-buying-guide-2014/
* Dryer
  + What types of clothes dryers are available?  
    The major difference in dryers is how they're powered — either by natural gas or electricity. Although you won't notice a difference in how thoroughly they dry, there are price differences. A gas dryer costs roughly $50-$100 more than its electric sibling. But a gas unit is generally less expensive to operate and will often pay back its higher cost in energy savings within the first year (depending on usage and utility rates). In addition, dryers that offer steam cycles to de-wrinkle and freshen garments have become popular in the last few years. If you select a dryer with this feature, it may be necessary to have access to a water hook-up, as well.
  + http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/appliances/dryer-reviews/a12761/clothes-dryer-faqs/
* Extra Items
  + - Laundry baskets  
      Whether you choose to assign one basket to each member of your family, or simply to separate clothes by color, it's important to have laundry baskets on hand. They can also work double-duty by holding orphaned socks.
    - Spray bottles  
      Empty spray bottles will be put to good use in your laundry room. Use one to spray water as you iron, or mix a small amount of dish soap with water and keep the mixture on hand to pretreat stains.
* Mesh Bags  
  Look for mesh bags in all shapes and sizes based on your laundry needs. They're perfect for your lingerie and other delicates. Mesh bags also can be used to separate and secure baby clothes and socks.
* Drying racks  
  Running out of room to hang your delicates and hand washables? Opt for a folding drying rack. For shirts and dresses, select a wall mounted laundry valet or clothing rack. Lastly, for garments that need to lay flat, look for a sweater drying rack.
* Hangers  
  They come in wood, plastic, metal, satin, and more. So how can you pick the right hangers for your family? Wooden hangers are more elegant, while plastic hangers are strong and economical. Metal hangers are sleek space savers, while satin protects your delicates perfectly.
* Ironing board  
  Add an ironing board to your laundry room for easy access. A built-in ironing center or wall mounted ironing board are both great options for keeping your laundry room neat and organized.
* http://www.sheknows.com/home-and-gardening/articles/817487/Top-10-laundry-room-essentials/
* Contact Us
* Credits
* http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/cleaning/laundry/how-do-laundry