

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF FABRICS

L.No	Title of Lesson	SKILLS	Activity
9	Care and Maintenance of Fabrics	Critical and Creative Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making	Importance and methods of stain removal

Summary

Fabric prevents growth of bacteria and fungus, which prevents from spoilage and many skin problems. They need care and maintenance to prolong their life and strength. Well-maintained fabrics give a groomed look.

When we wear clothes they become dirty due to stains, dust, perspiration etc. and need laundering. Some clothes cannot be washed every time they are worn. Thus, before putting them away for reuse, shaking, brushing or airing becomes necessary.

For care and maintenance of the fabrics, one should know the following pre-laundering steps:

- Collecting soiled clothes
- Mending them to enhance durability
- Sorting them as per type, colour, size, weight, dirt, utility, soaking time etc.
- Understanding labels to get information about the do's and don'ts of washing a fabric
- Removing the stains

A **stain** is an unwanted mark of discolouration on a fabric caused due to contact with another substance. While removing stains, some following precautions should be taken:

- Remove the stain while it is still fresh otherwise it might penetrate deep into the fabric
- For delicate or coloured fabrics, do the chemical test on the inner side of the seam first and check for damage
- Use dilute or mild reagents
- Rinse thoroughly after removal of the stain

What's Important to Know?

Classification of stains and techniques of stain removal:

Category of stains	Stains	Method of stain removal for white cottons
Vegetable	Tea, Coffee, Fruit	Boiling water, Borax
	Henna	Dip in warm milk
Animal	Blood, Milk, Egg	Cold water + soap
Grease	Oil, Ghee, Butter, Curry	Hot water + soap , dry on grass in sun
	Shoe polish, Paint, Lipstick	Scrape, sponge with spirit/ kerosene/ turpentine
Mineral	Rust	Lime juice + Salt
Miscellaneous	Grass, Ink	Soap + water
	Betal leaf (Paan)	Paste of onions, leave in sunlight

Principal Points

Laundering of Specific Fabrics

Steps	White Cotton	Coloured Cotton	Synthetic Fibre	Silk Fibre	Wool Fibre
Soaking	½ hour in warm water	No	No	No	No take outline of the garment
Washing	Any soap, Kneading and squeezing	Mild neutral soap	Cold water, good soap, light rubbing	Luke warm water, neutral soap, light rubbing	Neutral soap, kneading & squeezing
Rinsing	Whitening agent in last rinse	No whitening agent	No squeezing	In cold water	In warm water
Starching	In last rinse	In last rinse	Not required	Gum arabic	Not done
Drying	In sun	In shade	On hanger	Shade	On flat outline paper
Ironing	Hot iron	Hot iron	Warm iron	Warm iron	Steam iron
Storing	Completely dry	Completely dry	Completely dry	Completely dry	Completely dry

Build Your Understanding

Methods of Washing

- Washing by **friction**
 - Hand friction: used for cleaning very soiled small-sized areas such as cuffs, collar etc.
 - Scrubbing wash: suitable for cleaning floor and kitchen dusters
 - Beating stick: used for large clothes such as bed sheets and towels
- Washing by **kneading and squeezing**: used for delicate fabrics such as silk, wool etc.
- Washing in **machines**: saves labour and provides friction required for washing

Did You Know?

Different fabrics are ironed on different temperatures because of their different composition and heat sensitivities. Wool and synthetic fibers are ironed at 150° C, Cotton and rayon at 180° C while cotton and linen at extra hot 200° C.

Extend Your Horizon

Reema had mistakenly spilled ink over her white school uniform. Identify the stain and suggest her some stain removal techniques.

Evaluate Yourself

- What are the steps of stain removal?
- Why can't we iron woollens with hot iron? Give reason for your answer.
- Why is it essential to store only completely dry clothes?

Maximize your marks

- Read and evaluate some labels
- Practice stain removing techniques to understand them better.