

# General Info



Clothing and textiles which are cared for properly will look better, feel more comfortable, and last longer. Iron Pals offers some alternative methods to the ironing process. The information that follows represents some basic knowledge pertaining to care of textiles. We have included this section because the successful outcome of your ironing begins before the laundering process.

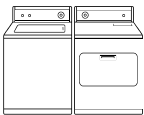
Special treatments given to newly constructed garments can lose their properties after a few washings. Creases in pants become less and less defined, and garments gradually lose their original shape. Proper care can increase the wear and comfort of your favorite items.



**Laundering** – Garments are constructed in various materials so there are various methods to care for them. Modern washing machines and dryers now accommodate these requirements so efficiently. Take the time to acquaint yourself with the features of your equipment. You may find that you will save time and energy costs by doing so. The selection of detergents, bleaches, softeners, stain removers, and starches continually increase on the shelves where we shop. These all have special purposes and there is a wealth of information on web sites created by the manufacturers of these items which is well worth checking out.

Most of us have experienced disappointment after finding that a favorite item has shrunk or was discolored in the laundering process. Following Care Label instructions in garments helps to avoid these problems.

- Inspect and treat any stains before laundering or they may become permanent.
- Heavily soiled clothes should be laundered separately. Some washing machines offer a prewash cycle setting for these.
- Turning clothes wrong side out preserves the outer surface of fabrics. Dryer time is reduced as well because air is flowing around the double thicknesses of seams.
- Sort clothes by composition - “Lint Givers” & Lint Receivers”  
The lint from a terry towel, corduroy, or flannel will show up on a smooth cotton item.
- Sort secondly by color - Similar colors should be washed together.
- Next, sort by water temperature. The difference between cold and warm can affect fibers or treatment & your appliance manufacturer may have a recommended water temperature setting of your water heater.
- Any new item should be laundered preferably separate for the first few washings or with items of like colors that any color transfer would not destroy, such as blue jeans.
- Choose the lesser agitating feature if washing a mixed load. For example, when washing cotton & permanent press together – choose permanent press which is gentler than the cycle for cottons.
- Water temperature selection is critical. Always follow the care label. Cottons will shrink if washed in hot water. The fibers in the fabric relax and this adds to the overall misshapeness of an item.



Some washing machines offer an extra spin or maximum extracting feature to decrease the amount of water retention. This results in less drying time and possibly less energy expense. Giving a shake to compacted items before placing them in the dryer raises the nap (raised fibers) on some fabrics and can speed up the drying process because more surfaces are exposed to the heated air. However, do not shake a damp knit (stretchy fabric) item or it may lose some of its shape.

Just as washing in the wrong water temperature can harm an item, so can the heat setting of the dryer.

**INSPECT DRYER SETTINGS BEFORE STARTING EACH LOAD. REMOVE LINT FROM TRAP BEFORE STARTING EACH LOAD.**

One of the best features of the modern dryers is the continuous tumbling after the heat is shut off. It is so important to remove clothes **PROMPTLY** from the dryer at the end of its cycle. But, if this isn't possible, keep a spray bottle handy filled with water to moisten the load and then choose the Permanent Press cycle to dry for a short time as is needed. *TIP: Experiment with the heat setting of dryer. Use Delicate Cycle for minimal heat.*





**Ironing Notes** – A high quality iron can make the task of ironing more efficient and the outcome more professional. Consider looking at what new technology has brought to the irons available on the market today. The steam features that allow you to concentrate an outburst of steam when pressing, and one that allows you to spray an area to moisten for those stubborn wrinkles are wonderful features.

When shopping for an ironing board, choose a sturdy model that offers an adjustable height, sufficient padding, and a mesh top which allows moisture to escape. Different sizes are available and your individual needs and preferences will determine if you are best served by the greater width or the standard length. The narrowness of the tapered end is a plus if you tend to iron smaller sizes of clothing.

- Familiarize yourself with the safety instructions and features provided by the manufacturer of your iron and ironing board.
- Inspect iron soleplate before each use to determine if cleaning needs to be done. A soleplate can accumulate a buildup from use of laundry aids and starch. Follow manufacturer care instructions for cleaning your iron soleplate. There are products on the market for this purpose also. Follow their instructions also.
- Read the care label symbol for the proper iron heat setting. The universal code is a symbol representing an iron that has either one, two, or three dots inside.
 

One Dot	= Cool Iron	(Low Setting)	Synthetics
Two Dots	= Medium Iron	(Medium Setting)	Wool / Silk
Three Dots	= Hot Iron	(High Setting)	Cottons / Linens
- Sort ironing by heat setting. It is more efficient to start with the lowest heat setting. It is quicker and more energy efficient to reach the lower setting than it is to go from high setting to lower heat and guessing could lead to disastrous results.
- Cotton is best ironed while slightly damp; linen even more damp. The steam iron provides some moisture, but if an item can be removed from the dryer before it is completely dry, it irons much better. If ironing cannot be done until the next day, roll up and put in a clear plastic bag and place in refrigerator to stave off mildew. Items can even be placed in the freezer if allowed to thaw completely before handling. If item is too dry, spray with warm water, roll up tight, and allow to rest for several minutes before ironing.
- Never allow plastic, painted, or metal sections of materials to touch the soleplate of an iron. Plastic may melt and metal may scratch soleplate causing damage to iron. Use a cloth of similar fabric between iron and an item with fabric paint so that it does not transfer to the soleplate of the iron.
- Dark fabrics can develop a shine if ironed on the right side of the fabric. To avoid this, iron from the wrong side, or place a press cloth on top of the fabric and iron over the press cloth.
- Ironing vs. Pressing – Not the same meaning.
 

Iron	– Glide iron back & forth over item (used over larger areas)
Press	– Placing iron on garment with an up & down motion (Used for small sections or stretchy fabrics)
- Use a gentle touch when handling fabric. Holding a section too tight can stretch or misshape an article. Follow the grain of the fabric when ironing, which helps keep the garment in its original shape.
- It is best to allow a section to rest on the ironing board surface until cool before repositioning. But for the sake of time, if you must continue, try to minimize that rewrinkling by allowing it to rest over something smooth that will provide air circulation.
- Do not iron linen bone dry. However, don't fold and put in storage while any moisture remains in the item.
- It is best to first iron sections of a garment that are double in thickness. These parts are less likely to rewrinkle while ironing the rest. Example: Collar, cuffs, yoke, bands. These are double to reinforce their shape and minimize stretching. Iron from points toward inside to minimize puckering.



Allow to air dry well before hanging in the closet and be careful not to crowd items.

