LIQUID AND DRY CLEANING

Cleaning Ostrich Feathers, Aigrettes and Plumes

Use a dry pan or bowl. Wash the feathers in gasoline rubbing the flue from the stem to the point of the feather. Throw the dirty gasoline out. Clean bowl. Pour in more gasoline. Add two tablespoonsful of wheat flour. Stir until it is the consistency of thin paste. Wash feathers, plumes or aigrettes in this solution, being careful to rub the flues from the stem to the point. Do not rub back and forth. Lift the feather from the bowl and dry it by beating it lightly over the back of the hand. The gasoline quickly evaporates, the heaviest part of the flour falls to the ground and enough remains to properly starch the feather. This work must be done near an open window. Fumes from the gasoline will produce a violent headache if the cleaning is done in a closed room.

To Clean Feathers

Feathers may be washed in gasoline in the same manner as other articles, but after they are dry they should be held in the steam of boiling water and then dried in a hot oven or over a heated radiator. This process will restore the curl to the feathers.

To Whiten Feathers

Plunge the feathers in naphtha, rinse in second dish of naphtha, and dry in the open air. Place in a closed box and expose to the strong fumes of sulphur. The box must be airtight or the bleaching will not be sufficient.

To Clean Osprey

The osprey may be safely washed in warm soapsuds, afterward rinsing in warm water two or three times. Faded ospreys may be redipped in the paint and gasoline dye. Ostrich feathers come out well from the same kind of a bath.

To Clean Wings

Wings should be wiped in order to remove dust, then sponged with alcohol.

Note: It is best to send fine Ostrich, aigrette and other plumage to professional cleaners, unless by practice you have become expert in manipulating them.
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Cleaning White Wings

Wings are much more difficult to clean than are the softer feathers, such as ostrich and marabou.

Cover white wings with a cream made from naphtha and French chalk, allowing it to dry on for a day, and then remove.

Dyeing Plumes

The best way to learn the processes necessary for cleaning, dyeing and curling plumes is to secure a position with an establishment making this work a specialty. The dyeing of ostrich feathers is an art and experts get high wages because very few persons develop the ability to judge colors and shades in the liquid dye that will be the correct colors or shades after the feathers are dried.

Curling is less difficult to learn but requires a deftness or a knack that some people can never acquire.

Ostrich feathers can be recurled without removal from the hat by holding over steam until the flues are fluffy again, when they may be curled with a blunt knife.

White Chiffon Hats

Soiled white chiffon hats respond to a treatment of equal parts of magnesia, French chalk and pulverized soap. The hat is covered with this mixture, which is left on for twenty-four hours. When brushed off, the soiled spots usually come with it.

Cleaning a White Felt Hat

Grease spots can be removed with benzine. Soap, water and brush will remove ordinary dirt, especially if one has a block to put the hat on. For a thorough cleaning, the band, lining, etc., must first be removed.

A Simple Process for Cleansing and Pressing Ribbons

A good-sized empty glass bottle, covered smoothly with soft flannel and linen outside, is most valuable to dry the ribbons on. There is no need of ironing, and the pieces come from the bath looking like new.
A flat, wide, high bottle is best for this purpose, and a piece of flannel rolled around it smoothly and sewed securely makes a foundation over which cotton must be bound so that any creases in the cover will not go into the ribbons.

The same bottle may be used for years without re-covering.

It is well to wait until there are a dozen or more narrow pieces to be freshened, for it is no more trouble to cleanse a dozen than to wash one. They should be put into a bath of soapy, warm water, but soap is not to be rubbed directly upon the ribbons. Neither should the pieces be rubbed in the hands; instead they are squeezed under the water, put through several soap baths and through two rinsings.

**Careful Work Necessary**

Laying them on the bottle requires time, and one should consider it a task to be done carefully. Each piece of ribbon should be put around and around the bottle, keeping the winding flat and smooth. As fast as one is used the next is placed, the new end holding down that of the piece previously folded. There may be four or five pieces, one on top of the other, but if the quality is good the colors will not run. The end of the last piece must be pinned to hold all securely, and the bottle should then be placed where drying will be rapid. Direct sunlight may fade the colors, so the cylinder should be put near artificial heat. When not in use the bottle must be wrapped in paper to prevent soiling the covering.

Wide ribbons are renewed by washing, though in a different manner, for to prevent their creasing in a bath they must be evenly wet with clear water and then patted smooth on a marble washstand or other flat surface. The strand must then be washed with soapy water, using the finger tips. This scours, without pulling the silk grain. When all soil has been removed the ribbon is lifted and rinsed by holding flat under a faucet and letting the water run through and down without permitting the surface to wrinkle. This done, the wet strand is again laid flat and patted gently and thoroughly, that there may be no blisters beneath the surface, for they show when the silk is dry.

**To Cleanse Ribbons**

Sponge with alcohol and rub over the spot with some clean, white
soap. During this process the ribbon must be kept straight. When clean rinse in alcohol and place between two towels. Press out with a hot iron.

**Directions for Cleaning a Slightly Soiled Ermine Stole**

Hot bran carefully rubbed in and shaken out again will remove much of the dirt; so will flour. Be sure the bran or flour is perfectly clean, and rub it in carefully.

**To Clean Silk or Cashmere**

In cleaning a very fine material, like cashmere or silk, use something less coarse than meal. For easily injured fabrics try block magnesia.

The treatment is a little more tender. Do not rub the silk between the hands as the heavier goods. Instead of that rub the block magnesia into it gently, rubbing the application on both sides of the goods.

Lay it away carefully, where it will be protected from the dust and leave it untouched for several days. After it has been well shaken and brushed it ought to look as well as though it had been through the hands of the professional cleanser.

**An Easy and Economical Way to Clean White Fur or Feathers**

Put into a strong paper bag equal parts of flour and Indian meal with one-eighth the quantity of borax. Shake the articles in the bag until all soil has disappeared; then remove from the bag and shake out the powder.

White furs can also be cleaned with flour.

**Cleaning Lace**

Lace should always be soaked before washing, and if much soiled use boiling water in which a teaspoonful of borax has been dissolved, the usual proportions being two cupfuls of water to every teaspoonful of borax. Then make a lather with some good soap and hot water. Take the lace from the water in which it has been soaked, place it in the soap water and squeeze it exactly as if it were a sponge till it is clean. This will prevent the lace from being torn, more especially if it is of a fine make. Repeat the process, if necessary, in another basin.
of soapy water. Then rinse in clean, cold water until all the soap is removed. If the lace is white a little blue in the rinsing water will improve the color. A very little stiffening will prevent ordinary lace from soiling quickly, but this must not be enough to keep the fabric from falling into soft folds. The water in which rice has been boiled is very suitable for this purpose. Wash two tablespoonfuls of rice until it is perfectly clean, then put it in a saucepan with one and a half pints of water. Boil for four minutes, then allow the lace to stand in the water for a minute. Take it out, squeeze tightly, pull it into shape, and put it under a heavy weight. If after repeated washings the lace has still a soiled look, it may either be bleached in the sun or boiled. To boil lace, put it in a jar or preserve pot with cold water to cover it, and a little melted soap. Stand the jar in a saucepan with boiling water to reach fully halfway up the jar, put the lid on the pan and boil for two or three hours.

To dry clean fine white lace, lay it out quite evenly on clean white paper, cover it with magnesia, then put another paper on top. Let it remain inside the leaves of a book for two or three days, when it will look as fresh as new. After being cleaned, if the lace is not in use, keep it in blue paper, as this has a preservative influence over its whiteness.

**A Simple Method of Pressing and Cleaning Lace**

It is useful to have as many hints as possible concerning the process of cleaning lace, for many women prefer doing this themselves rather than to send valuable heirlooms to the cleaners.

This method of pressing real laces is practised by a Frenchwoman who always does up her valuable collection of old laces. The rolled lace is wound round a good sized bottle, which is then covered with white muslin, carefully tacked on. Put the bottle in a kettle filled with cold water in which a good sized piece of white soap is dissolved and boil for an hour. Pour off the soiled water and add fresh until the water is clear.

Remove the bottle and rinse repeatedly through cold water. Take off the muslin and let the lace dry on the bottle. If the stiffness is out the lace is dipped in a little skim milk. It is then put in a damp cloth until ready to pin out.
The pinning out process is most important. A wooden drum twelve inches high and twenty-four inches in diameter is covered with cotton wadding and white muslin on the circumference of the wood, and the cylinder has blue paper put over it, as blue is less trying to the eyes than white.

Take out just enough lace from the cloth to pin it before drying entirely. Pin the heading of lace first in a straight edge, setting the pins closely and at equal distances. Then pin out each picot separately, taking care to keep them in shape and to retwist if they have become untwisted.

If the picots cannot all be pinned before the lace dries, dampen them with a wet cloth, as sticking pins into dry parts may tear valuable lace. Use very fine pins for the tiny picots and coarser ones for heavier lace. Only a non-rustable pin must be used.

The lace must stay pinned on the cylinder until dry, when it is removed and slipped into blue paper bags to keep clean until the entire portion to be washed is finished.

Do not attempt this pinning out when in a hurry, as the work must be done carefully and should be finished at one sitting.

When the lace is fragile and very soiled, before washing on a bottle soak for several hours in pure olive oil.

To Clean Lace

No. 1—Fill a large bottle with cold water and sew around it some clean, old white muslin. Tack one end of the lace to the muslin and wrap the lace around the bottle smoothly. With a clean sponge saturate the lace thoroughly with pure sweet oil. Suspend the bottle by means of strings into a wash-bottle. Pour in a strong cold lather of white castile soap. Boil this suds until the lace is white and clean. Dry the lace, still wrapped about the bottle, in the sun. Remove the lace, and if necessary, press it under a thin piece of muslin or cheese cloth.

No. 2—Spots in lace may be removed by scouring gently with a brush with a suds made of white soap and warm water. Afterward proceed as just directed. Some laces are strong enough to stand gentle rubbing in the hands. After washing and rinsing them, wrap them
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about a bottle and allow to remain until thoroughly dry. After removing them from the bottle pull and smooth with the fingers.

No. 3—After washing lace by either of the processes just given, let it partially dry. Place a folded blanket covered with clean muslin on an ironing board or table. Iron the lace under a thin strip of muslin or cheesecloth until it is thoroughly dry. If the figures in the pattern are raised on one side, or outlined by a raised thread, place this side downward so that the soft pad will prevent the pattern from being flattened.

How to Clean Parasols

Place the parasol in the bathtub and run in enough warm water to cover it. Rub it all over with a pure white soap and let it soak for a few minutes. Then scrub it well with a small hand-brush, rubbing the soiled places and the creases briskly. Rinse in two or three waters. If it is a white parasol, put a little bluing in the last water. Open it and hang in the sun until dry.

To Clean a Parasol

If the soiled parasol is silk covered, gasoline and naphtha should be used; white soap should be cut and mixed with a little warm water to make a jelly, then added to the gasoline.

The parasol should be opened and given a scrubbing, using a nail brush for the purpose. When clean rinse in clear gasoline and dry.

Lace, linen or net will stand the soap and water process. Make a warm, strong suds, using only the best white soap and a little borax. Scrub as directed for gasoline and rinse thoroughly, first with warm water and then with cold. Set out of doors to dry, still open, secured in some way to save the sunshade from being carried away by the wind.

If the covering is of chiffon or chiffon cloth, the gasoline method should be employed.

Simple Cleanser for Suède Gloves

Light suède gloves may be satisfactorily cleaned at home with oatmeal. Put the oatmeal in a bowl and the gloves on the hands. Then
rub the hands through the meal exactly as if you were washing them with soap and water. If any part is especially soiled, scour it thoroughly with a piece of white flannel dipped in the meal.

**Cleaning Kid Gloves**

After the gloves have been cleaned with petrol or benzine, and they are quite dry, place them on the hand and stroke firmly with a bone saltspoon, beginning at the finger-tips and working down to the wrist. This smooths and polishes the kid, and the gloves keep clean much longer.

**To Clean Woolen or Cotton Gown**

To cleanse a woolen or cotton gown, shake and brush it well first, to insure its being freed from accumulated dust.

Then put it into a tub and rub it with buckwheat flour which has been slightly salted. Have plenty of the flour and rub the dress in it as you would in soap water, paying especial attention to the dirtiest parts and rubbing them well between your hands with the flour.

You will be astonished to see how dirty this will be after the rubbing process is ended.

Shake out the garment, empty the tub, put the dress in it again and rub in fresh. Cover it with this; put a cover on the tub and leave untouched for three days.

Take out the dress, shake it again and brush it with a clean brush broom until it is entirely free from the flour.

**White Hats, Knit Shawls or Afghans**

In every case flour is to be rubbed well into the material and left there for two or three days, the article in cleansing to be kept covered so that dust cannot settle upon it.

At the end of the period of retirement a vigorous brushing and shaking must be given and almost always the garment will be found satisfactorily clean. In some obstinate cases a second application may be necessary, but this is unusual.

White furs may be cleansed in the same way.

**Cleaning a Woolen Skirt**

For thoroughly cleansing woolen skirts, either black or colored,
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without the least possible injury, there is nothing better than a washing in a soap bark bath.

Five cents' worth of the bark is sufficient to make the grimiest skirt like new, if one is willing to take the trouble. This quantity should be put into a gallon of cold water and brought to a boil. Take off stove, and use when tepid; use no soap with it; press while slightly damp.

Dry Cleaning at Home

There are ways of practicing dry-cleaning at home by those who have more time than money to spend in making their garments presentable. The process is simple enough, although it is a little troublesome, in that it demands care and close attention to details.

Dry Cleaning Preparation

A successful way to clean white yokes and cuffs without removing them from a waist or dress is to cover them with a mixture of two parts white corn-meal and one part powdered borax. Leave this on overnight; then brush it off thoroughly.

Dry Cleaning for Ecru Curtains

Arabian net or écru curtains lose their tint in ordinary washing, and recoloring is not always satisfactory. Spread a sheet or two on the floor and lay the curtains carefully on them. Mix two parts of bolted corn-meal with one of salt. Take a clean brush or the hand and rub all through the curtains. Hang out of doors for a couple of hours and the curtains will be clean and look like new. In this simple way they can be cleaned frequently, will never smell of dust or smoke and will wear better.