HINTS FOR WASHING AND IRONING

To Wash Chiffon

Chiffon is washed in the same way as muslin, and after rinsing, put through very thin clean starch. Be careful not to twist it in any way, but enclose it in the folds of a towel, and either beat it between the hands until dry or put it through the wringing machine. Do not let chiffon lie too long before ironing, but stretch it to its proper shape and iron it on the right side with a moderately hot iron. If it is a large piece, do not expose too much of it to the air at one time, but keep the part you are not ironing covered over to prevent its becoming dry. Pull out occasionally while ironing to keep it soft, and iron over again. It must on no account be made stiff, but ought to fall softly, and just have sufficient stiffness to prevent its looking limp.

Drying Lace Curtains

The rather trying task of stretching wet lace curtains is much more easily accomplished if the frames are stood upon edge in the position in which they are usually put to dry, instead of on the floor or in a flat position balanced on chairs. Gather the long edge of the curtain in the left hand and adjust on the upper row of pins with the right, allowing the width of the curtain to hang toward the floor. The curtain will not catch on the pins, nor will there be any danger of its dragging on the floor, as in the other method.

To Wash Curtains

Curtains should first be well shaken to remove dust, then, if white, soaked over night in cold water. For washing use rather warm water with plenty of soap jelly. Knead and squeeze well, leaving the curtains in the water a short time. It is usually necessary to wash them through at least two soap lathers; they should then be rinsed thoroughly in plenty of warm water, and the white ones boiled for half an hour. After boiling, rinse thoroughly in warm water to remove all trace of the soap. The curtain should then be drawn through hot starch. Allow about two ounces of starch to each curtain, but if you put one in after another, without adding more starch, the last put through will be limp. It is better to starch the curtains
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when dry, as they do not retain much starch, and if they are put through while wet the starch has to be made very thick, and then it is liable to be lumpy. After starching, place them in a curtain stretcher, if you have one; if not, pin them on a sheet laid on the floor of a room and leave until dry. They should not require ironing. If they are pulled very straight over a line when wet, and left till dry, then mangled, they will do for ordinary use.

Bleaching Silk Embroidery

In these days of raking up all of the antiques in the family one may come across some lovely old silk or fine linen hand embroidery that must be bleached out, but beware of giving it to anyone to do for you.

The pieces are put into cold water, which is thick with pure white soap and a drop of bluing. This is allowed to come to a boil. Remove the articles at once, rinse through several lukewarm waters, finally through a bluing water, and put on the grass while wet to bleach.

Do not rub or squeeze hard. Sometimes it is necessary to repeat the washing and boiling if the pieces are very yellow. When bleached put the right side down on the ironing board, smooth edges into place and iron under a linen cloth. Do not use too hot an iron, as old materials scorch easily.

If the grass is dusty put pieces on a clean towel. They bleach better when flat on the grass, though sometimes they need an after rinsing. This was meant originally for white cotton or handkerchief linen.

Bleaching Silk Embroidery

Wash in distilled water with a little borax.

Washing Colored Embroideries

The best way to bleach white goods having colored embroidery (such as doilies and other articles which cannot be boiled for fear the color will fade) is to wash them and then dry them in the shade. Put them in an old pillow-case which has been dipped in very strong bluing water and thoroughly dried. Then hang the case, with the embroidered articles inside, in the light for several days. They will be perfectly white and the colored embroidery will not be one bit faded.
To Wash Straw Hats

Straws that are not sized in manufacturing, that is, contain no shellac or glue, may be washed with perfect safety. To wash hats they should first be thoroughly freed from dust, then cleansed with warm soap and water by scrubbing with a fair size nail brush, and when dry should be covered with the white of an egg, beaten to a froth.

Some persons think that a half lemon dipped in salt and vigorously applied to the hat is the best whitener. This is excellent, but it is impossible to brush all the salt out of the straw, and when this becomes damp, as it surely will if worn out in the rain, the dust gathers and sticks until the last state of the hat is worse than the first.

When soap and water are not practicable five cents' worth of oxalic acid may be used with good results.

Drying Knitted Garments

Wash the article in warm suds and rinse thoroughly. Then dry the garment by placing it in a pan in which a towel has been laid; shake it occasionally; when dry, the article will be as light and fluffy as new. A knitted garment dried in this way always retains its shape, whereas if it were hung up to dry it would stretch.

To Bleach Muslin

When muslin has become faded and it is desired to bleach it white, chloride of lime put in the boiling water in the proportion of one tablespoon of lime to one quart of water will effect the result.

To Wash Plain and Spotted Net

Net is washed in exactly the same way as common lace, and also stiffened in hot water starch; but as net is so thin, it does not take the stiffening readily, and must in consequence be put into fairly thick starch. So, for thin nets full boiling water starch is usually necessary. The net must then be dried and dampened, and ironed on the wrong side. It should be carefully ironed to the width, as it has a great tendency to draw to the length, and become stringy in appearance. Care must also be taken to keep the edges straight while it is being ironed.
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To Prevent Stains

Always keep a small bag of white rags tied to the handle of the clothes-pin basket. When a fine article is to be hung on the line, or is to stay out all night, or if the clothes-pins are rather old and there is danger of staining, it is an easy matter to put a bit of white muslin under the pin. In this way many a tear as well as many a smudge is prevented.

When the laundry is taken in, the bits of cloth are dropped into the baskets with the other articles, and when the clothes are folded, the rags are put into the fire, fresh one being used each time.

Cold Laundry Starch

To three pints of cold water add one-quarter pound of fine starch, two tablespoonfuls of powdered borax, a little liquid bluing and one tablespoonful of powdered gum-arabic. Dissolve the gum-arabic in a little warm water on the stove, and strain through cheese-cloth. Put in cans and when needed stir well. It will keep for months.

Starch the articles in thin boiled starch first, dry before dipping in the cold starch, then roll in a towel and let them stand for ten or fifteen minutes before ironing. Use a clean ironing sheet and irons, and be sure the linen is spotlessly clean, or failure is inevitable.

Iron on the wrong side first, then rub the right side with a dry cloth and iron until dry.

To Wash a White Sweater

Dissolve one level tablespoonful of borax and one-fourth of a cake of white soap in cold water to cover the sweater generously. Let soak an hour, then squeeze it out, but do not wring. Rinse very thoroughly through several cold waters, then squeeze as dry as possible (or put through the wringer), pull it into shape and dry it. All wool flannels and blankets are safely washed thus.

When drawing threads from linen rub white soap on the cloth and the work will be much more easily accomplished. When making eyelet embroidery, if a piece of white soap is held under the material and the stiletto is allowed to pass into it a much better eyelet can be made, as the soap gives a slight stiffness to the cloth.
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To Wash Chiffon Veils

Make a suds of warm water and a good pure white soap, dip the veil in and squeeze the veil gently until all the soil has disappeared. Do not rub at all. Rinse in several waters and pin out on a flat surface, over which spread a clean sheet, and just before it is dry iron under a clean white cloth. If one does not object to a crêpy appearance, it is not necessary to iron chiffon veils at all.

To Wash a White Veil

A white veil can be very successfully washed by immersing it in a line in a sheltered place to dry. Where a line is not practicable it should be carefully spread out, pinned to a cloth, and left in the open air till quite dry.

A veil should be taken from the hat each time it is worn and folded or rolled, and at night should be laid away in tissue paper.

To Wash Velveteen

That velveteen may be washed successfully will probably surprise many persons. Make a lather of some pure white soap and hot water, souse the velveteen up and down in it a number of times, then put it in two more hot lathers, and finally rinse thoroughly in clear, warm water. About a teaspoonful of salt to a quart of water should be used in the washing and rinsing. Do not wring it out, but hang it on the line and let it remain until it is half dry. Remove it from the line, and iron on the wrong side. The steam will raise the pile and make it look like new material. Iron bath towel.

Do Not Starch Shirt Waists

When washing white or colored shirt-waists do not starch them. After they are dry, dip them in hot water, wring out and roll up tightly. Let them lie ten or twenty minutes; then iron on the wrong side. They will look like new. Table linen is nicer when laundered this way.

Washing a White China Silk Waist

Cut any white soap and mix with hot water until it becomes a jelly. Add sufficient warm water to make a strong suds, using a little borax if the water is hard. Do not substitute ammonia, for while this is a softening agent it is apt to turn white silks yellow.
Lay the waist in a bath so prepared and squeeze through the hands, lifting up and down in the suds. Rub any soiled places with the hands, but do not put soap on the silk.

When clean wring and rinse in clear lukewarm water, then with cold. Lay in a dry towel and pat to absorb the moisture, then roll in a second dry towel.

After a short period shake out and spread over a chair or rack in the room until the waist is almost dry, then press on the wrong side with a warm iron.

It is said that a teaspoonful of methylated spirits added to the last rinsing water will give a gloss to china silk, making it look like new.

Washing Hint

Persons doing up their own collars will have experienced the annoyance caused by peg-marks showing when they have been hung out to dry on the clothes-line after being washed. To do away with this, get a piece of thin string or tape, and thread it through the buttonholes of each of the articles. Tie each end of the tape or string to the line, then they will all dry together. This saves a great deal of trouble unpegging, and keeps the collars and ties clean by saving handling them so much. To take them in, all you have to do is to untie the two ends of string or tape from the line, and carry all in together.

Washing Bamboo

In washing bamboo furniture, if it is scrubbed with a brush and warm water to which a little salt has been added, it will not turn yellow.

Pressing Bows on Hats

When bows and loops on a hat become limp and muddled, try pressing them from the inside with a heated curling-iron. This is especially practical in traveling, as the iron takes up little room.

Two Ways of Covering an Ironing-Board

Using an old sheet double it as many times as it will cover the board. This will make four or five thicknesses, which are laid smoothly and tacked on the board all at once. When the top layer becomes soiled, it is cut off and there is the board with a clean cover.
When covering the ironing-board with a blanket or padding, tack it along the edges only, so that both sides and the ends are smoothly covered. Then make an unbleached ironing-sheet the size of board, with large end left open to slip on like a pillow-case. If well fitted, both sides of the board can be used; it will look neat and there will be no pins or nails to tear hands or clothing.

**Useful Ironing Blanket**

Make an ironing blanket for embroidered articles and laces from a square of white outing flannel, and one of Turkish toweling, neatly bound together. The Turkish side is used for laces and insertions, as the loose threads in ironing are forced up through the lace, while the other side is used for embroideries.

**For Cleaning and Polishing Irons**

Saturate a cloth with water, wring partially dry, rubbing soap thoroughly on it. Place on several thicknesses of paper. Rub iron over it several times, pressing hard, to remove starch and roughness. The result is surprising, as it makes the surface of iron perfectly clean and smooth.

This is the best and most economical way of cleaning irons doing away with the use of ironing wax or any cleanser for irons.

**A Handy Iron Cleaner**

A very practical little contrivance for use when ironing consists of a block of wood about five inches square. Five holes are bored in this block and filled with beeswax. These are covered with a piece of muslin. The other side of the block is covered with emery-cloth. The emery side of the block is used to rub the iron on if the starch sticks, and the wax side gives the iron smoothness.

**Flat-Irons**

Old flat-irons become rusty, but a coat of aluminum enamel paint made them neat and clean. No more flakes of rust or smudge to drop off on white garments when ironing. They can be washed and the heat does not affect the enamel, as it is the kind used on radiators. One coat is sufficient, and a small can will do for coating a number of irons.
Look After the Smoothing Iron

After the temper of a smoothing iron is spoiled it will never retain the heat so well again. Therefore never let irons stand on the stove when there is a hot fire unless they are in constant use, and do not allow them to become over-heated.

When Heating Irons

Turn an old pan or kettle over irons which are being heated and they will get hot much quicker. This also keeps the room cooler.

How to Press Black Lace

To press black lace, sponge with clear water on the right side until quite wet, lay right side down on a black pad, cover with a black cloth and press with a hot iron. When this is done it will be found that the lace is like new.

A New Scheme for Ironing Ribbons

If the ribbon has been washed in gasoline let it get thoroughly aired before pressing. If washed in soap and water, roll in a dry cloth before pressing. Lay several thicknesses of paper on the ironing board, then place one end of the ribbon on the paper, with a piece of brown or white paper on each side. Now press hard with a warm flatiron on the ribbon under the paper, and pull the ribbon all under the flatiron. Then reverse the ends. It requires two persons to successfully press ribbons in this way. The process is very simple, and the ribbon will look as good as when new, and will not lose its stiffness or look glossy, as those ironed the old way.