

# HOME LAUNDRY MANAGEMENT



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# HOME LAUNDRY MANAGEMENT

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The purpose of this bulletin is to give helpful suggestions for improving home laundry management. Much progress has been made in developing skills for doing various household tasks, but acquiring skill in doing the family laundry has been seriously neglected. This fact may be due to the erroneous idea that laundry work is a lowly task to be done by the underprivileged, or it may be due to the lack of adequate equipment for making laundry work an easier household task.

To the average homemaker, washing is a drudgery, a task she dislikes to begin and one which she is glad to finish. This need not be the case if the task is given careful thought and planning. The use of good equipment arranged to save steps and the use of proper methods of work, as well as pleasant surroundings, help to eliminate the fatigue which results from doing the home laundry. Other factors conducive to the best laundry work are personal appearance, mental attitude and acquiring skill in laundry practices.

Personal appearance affects the attitude of the worker directly, and indirectly affects her efficiency in doing the home laundry. This means that she should wear clean, attractive, comfortable, well-fitted house dresses and shoes. An apron or or a smock will protect the dress. The worker should also protect her shoes from water by wearing galoshes or by standing on a low wooden platform when doing laundry work.

A happy mental attitude also plays an important role in the homemaker's ability to perform any household task efficiently. When a person is happy, work seems to progress faster and is more easily done. "Any task worth doing at all is worth doing well," even though it be the laundry task.

Developing and practicing skill in the routine of laundry work is very essential to good home laundry management.

## HOW HOME LAUNDRY PRACTICES ORIGINATED

The origin of home laundry practices dates back 2000 years before Christ, when the Egyptians stamped their clothes in the Nile River. One of the earliest methods for doing the family laundry was to slap the clothes against stones in a running stream. Beating the clothes against the stones forced water

through them, which is similar to the present process of cleaning clothes in the modern washing machine. Those people had no soap, starch, water softeners or laundry equipment.

In some countries today the less fortunate people still save their dirty clothes until a convenient time, and wash them in a stream of running water. This is the practice used in countries with an inadequate water supply and laundry equipment.

The first washboards were very crude in comparison to the washboards the modern homemaker uses. These washboards consisted of a small platform constructed at the edge of a running stream of water. The platform projected into the water so the wet clothes could be pulled from the water to the platform. The clothes were slapped with paddles to remove the dirt. Before washing machines were available, many of our homemakers placed wet clothes on a smooth stump of a tree and paddled the clothes with a flat paddle resembling an oar for rowing a boat. The idea was to force water through the clothes, thus cleaning them with the least effort.

One of the earliest known methods for wringing clothes was to place one end of the garment under the feet, in order to hold it, then twist the garment with the hand until the water disappeared. Another practice of wringing clothes was to fasten one end of the garment to the limb of a tree, and twist the garment with the hands to extract the water.

The first soap used for washing clothes was discovered by accident. It was noticed that the water from wood ashes had a bleaching power when it was used in water where clothes were soaked. People began to save their ashes and place them in a container. Holes were bored in the bottom of the barrel and water poured through the ashes. At a later date homemakers learned that the water contained lye or potash and would make a brown soap jelly when a sufficient quantity of grease was added.

It was also by accident that the first water softener was discovered. The brown colored water from the wood ashes contained potash, and when added to hard water, it was found that soap would lather more readily than in water which had not been softened. Since that time potash or lye water has been used for softening hard water.

The art of starching was invented during the time of Queen Elizabeth. A Dutch woman learned to starch the wide ruffs worn around the neck of Queen Elizabeth's dresses. It became such a popular art that teachers were paid as much as five pounds for each lesson in starching.

Ironing clothes was first practiced by using a smoothing iron made of steel or brass with a wooden handle. The inside of the iron contained a hollow space in which was placed a piece of hot iron or coal in order to heat the smoothing iron. Oftentimes glass rollers were used for smoothing out delicate garments trimmed with fine laces and embroidery.

#### **PROVIDING A CONVENIENT PLACE FOR DOING THE HOME LAUNDRY**

Home laundry work is usually done in a wash house, in the basement of the house, on the back porch, in the kitchen, or in the back yard. Providing a convenient place for doing home laundry work is very necessary. In too many homes very little attention is paid to the place and equipment provided for doing the laundry. A separate room is desirable although in many houses the kitchen must be used for this purpose during the winter months, and the shade of a tree in the back yard during the summer months. If the laundry is done in the kitchen, the sorting of dirty clothes should be done elsewhere. When there is no other place to do the laundry except in the yard, equipment should be adjusted to height of the worker and grouped conveniently, just as much as when the laundry room is located in a more permanent place.

*Essentials of a Convenient Home Laundry Room are Suggested:* The ideal place for doing the home laundry is in a separate room which may be located at the back of the house near the kitchen so that water will be convenient, or in the basement. If the laundry is done in the basement, a door should open into the yard so it will not be necessary to carry the water and clothes up and down steps. Many farm families prefer to build a laundry room or wash house in the back yard. It is much more convenient if this room joins the kitchen rather than being separated from the house. The room may also be used for other purposes such as the preparation of cream and eggs for market, the preparation of butchered meats, and for storing canned foods. If the back porch is used for doing the home laundry, it should be enclosed with glass windows for protection of the worker during winter months and for ventilation during the summer. When it is necessary to use an open porch, it should be enclosed with canvas during the winter months.

Whether the home laundry is done in the laundry room, in the basement or on the back porch, the characteristics of the room and arrangement of the equipment are the same. The room should be attractive, and is convenient when divided

into washing and ironing centers. The size of the room depends on the amount of equipment and size of family. Usually 20 square feet is necessary.

Good lighting is very necessary in the laundry room. All natural light should fall upon the work from the side rather than directly in front of the worker. If the laundry room is located in the basement, it may be advisable to add a window rather than do laundry work under eye strain in a dark room. Artificial light should be placed so there will be plenty of light at the ironing center and also at the washing center.

Adequate doors and windows are necessary to produce the best ventilation of the laundry room. It is probably more necessary to have good ventilation in this room than in other rooms because of the unpleasant odors from soiled clothes and escaping heat or steam.

Walls of a laundry room should be washable and light in color, especially when natural lighting is insufficient. Several coats of a good grade, washable oil paint may be used as a finish for walls of the laundry room.

The floor of a laundry room is best made of material that is restful to stand upon, easily cleaned and does not get slippery when wet. Concrete is sometimes used as it does not become water soaked and slippery but it is very tiring to the feet. This objection can be partly overcome by using rubber mats to stand upon. A wood floor is often used but is most satisfactory when covered with linoleum cemented to the wood using waterproof cement.

An attractive laundry room is just as essential as an attractive kitchen, especially if it joins the kitchen. The laundry room may be made more attractive by using durable, inexpensive window curtains. Such material as unbleached muslin or print makes suitable curtains for the laundry room.

All laundry rooms are more convenient and sanitary when a water outlet is provided in the floor for drainage of waste water, as this saves lifting the water. If both hot and cold water are provided, a faucet with each placed near the washing equipment in the laundry room is a great labor saver. A funnel pipe or a piece of rubber hose may be attached to a faucet and water run into washing machine or tubs.

### CHOOSING THE BEST EQUIPMENT AND ITS ARRANGEMENT FOR LAUNDRY WORK

Good laundry management depends to a great extent on the equipment used. Equipment must be provided for washing, wringing, drying, starching, sprinkling and ironing clothes. Plenty of well-chosen equipment, conveniently arranged and wisely used makes laundry work an easier task. Power machinery, as the electric washer, electric wringer, and electric iron require much less energy of the worker than doing the laundry by hand. The proper arrangement and the correct height of equipment save many steps and much time of the worker. Figure 1 shows a floor plan suitable for a laundry room and a convenient arrangement of furnishings and equipment.

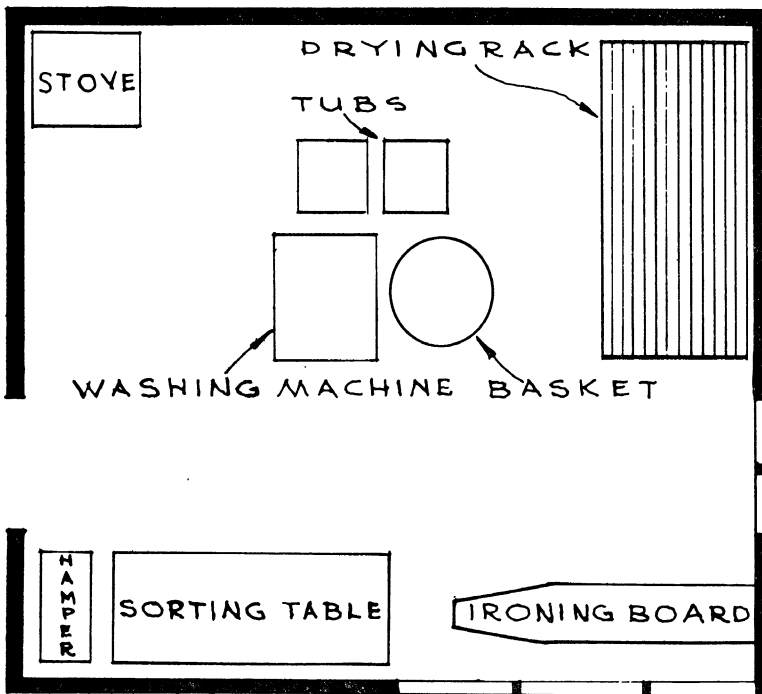


Figure 1.—Floor Plan for Laundry Room.

*An Efficient Washing Machine is an Asset for Doing the Home Laundry:* There are many models of washing machines on the market, so the homemaker may have a wide range of

selection but there are only three or four types. The homemaker must make her own choice as to the type of machine she desires.

Cost, upkeep, and care are factors to consider in the selection of a washing machine. It has been found by experiment that some of the less expensive washing machines will give as good service as some of the more expensive types. It is necessary that the machine be so constructed that it requires very little servicing. The three kinds of washing machines on the market are the gasoline, hand and electric. If a hand power machine is chosen, it should be adjusted to the height of the worker. Gasoline power washing machines are operated by a movable power engine, or by a power engine mounted on the frame of the washing machine.

Another point to look for in the selection of a washing machine is the size or the amount of washing that can be done in the machine at one time. The size of the machine is usually measured in terms of pounds of clothes. The average size washing machine will hold five to eight pounds of dry clothes or may be referred to as holding five to eight sheets. Some washing machines will hold from nine to 16 pounds, but the size of the load is specified with the machine instructions. For a family of five to seven a nine sheet capacity is recommended. Another factor is the amount of water capacity of the machine. The dealer will have this information, and the water line is usually marked on the inside of the machine. Too much water is as bad as too little water in the washing machine.

The construction of the machine is also an important factor in choosing a washing machine. When motors are sealed in, the manufacturer should guarantee the original lubrication to last a certain length of time. This type of motor reduces the possibility of oil or grease dripping on the clothes during the laundry process.

The framework of the washing machine should be of a good grade steel. The weight of the machine is considered especially if the machine is to be moved about. Every washing machine should be equipped with easy-rolling, rubber casters.

A washing machine should be well insulated to prevent electrical shocks while the machine is in operation. All wires that connect with the machine should be well insulated, probably enclosed in rubber tubing. The machine needs a written



guarantee to this effect. It is well to operate a machine before buying it, since some machines operate with less noise than others. Rubber mounted tub covers, wringers, motors and tubs all tend to decrease noise and eliminate vibration when the washing machine is being used.

The materials most often used for tubs of washing machines are porcelain enamel, monel metal, copper, nickel alloy, stainless steel, aluminum and galvanized iron. If an enameled tub is chosen, be sure it is guaranteed against chipping or peeling. Copper is a good conductor of heat, not easily stained but difficult to keep polished. Aluminum is light in weight, cheap, smooth on surface, but is hard to clean. Nickel alloy is strong, light in weight and is being used extensively even though it is a little more expensive than other metals. Galvanized iron is the cheapest, and the most difficult to keep clean. Some washers have double-walled tubs to hold heat longer, but are more expensive than the single-walled tubs. All tubs should be equipped with good drainage connections. The top of the washing machine is more convenient if hinged to the tub. The top may be of same material as tub or a rust-proof material as nickel alloy. Chromium is desirable as a trim for the machine since it is durable and requires little cleaning.

The three types of washing machines on the market are the cylinder, the vacuum and the agitator. The agitator type is more often used than other types.

The vacuum type of machine is made with a tub and inverted cups or cones which move up and down, thus forcing water through the clothes on the down stroke and drawing it out on the upward stroke. In some machines the cones move back and forth as it goes up and down. See Figure 2.

The cylinder type has a perforated metal or wood cylinder in which clothes are placed. This cylinder revolves in an outer container holding soap and water. The revolving cylinder repeatedly lifts the clothes out of the water and drops them back into it, thus forcing the water through the mesh of the cloth. The direction in which the cylinder is rotating is reversed periodically as shown by the arrows in the cylinder type machine, Figure 2. This type is easy on the clothes but requires very long washing.

The agitator type of washing machine gets its name from the device called an agitator that revolves in the bottom of the tub. The agitator is made of metal, usually aluminum, fast-

ened to the bottom of the tub in center and carries the clothes in one direction, then in the opposite direction, thus forcing water through the cloth. The agitator with broad blades is less likely to wear fibers of clothes than one with narrow blades. See Figure 2.

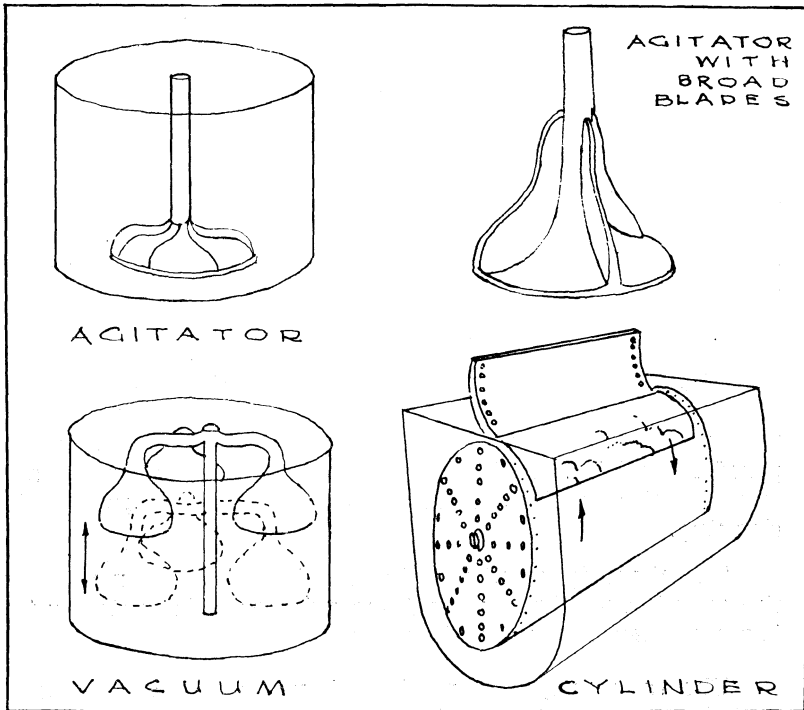


Figure 2.—Types of Washing Machines

*A Power Wringer or Extractor Aids Home Laundry Work:* Most power washing machines are equipped with a power wringer or a water extractor, which is a convenience.

There are many factors to consider in the selection of a clothes wringer. The old-fashioned hand wringer requires much more energy than wringing the clothes by hand. Power wringers save both time and energy. A wringer should be made of good quality material, have soft or semi-soft firm rollers and an emergency safety release. Ball bearings, heavy springs, enclosed gears and reversible action are other desirable features of a power wringer. Soft rolls on the wringer do not break buttons so easily, but clothes cling to the soft rollers more easily than to the hard. Many wringers now have one

soft and one hard roller. Hard rubber rollers last longer and extract more water but are harder on the clothes. One should be able to lock the wringer in at least four different positions.

It is especially important that the best of care be taken of a wringer. When using the wringer, adjust the pressure to the kind and quantity of clothes used in the wringer. After each use, wash the rolls, dry them well, and release the pressure. Oil and care for the wringer according to instructions from the manufacturer.

The extractor has the advantage over a wringer in that several pieces can be dried at one time; it does not break buttons on clothes, does not press creases in garments, is safe to use, but requires floor space for operating. When operating an extractor, more energy is used for lifting the clothes than when the wringer is used. An extractor leaves the clothes much drier than a wringer.

*Extra Tubs Are Needed in the Laundry Process:* Stationary or movable tubs may be used in the laundry process. The built-in or stationary tubs are more expensive than the portable type and may be prohibitive but are advisable if no washing machine is available. Movable tubs are usually made of galvanized iron, are light in weight and are easily cleaned. Movable tubs can be placed near the washing machine. At least two tubs are needed and the square type fits together much more conveniently than the round ones. Tubs are most convenient when mounted on stands equipped with easy rolling casters and adjusted to the proper height for the worker. Tubs equipped with outlets in the bottom save lifting heavy tubs or buckets of water. If there is no outlet, water may be siphoned from the tub by using a siphon drain. See Figure 3.

*A Washboard May be Helpful on Laundry Day:* If a washboard is used in doing the laundry, it should be well constructed. The rubbing surface is usually made of glass or rust-proof metal. Metal boards do not break easily but wear through, leaving rough edges, which may tear the clothes or cut the hand. Discard washboards as soon as small holes have appeared.

It is necessary that the frame of a washboard be substantial, and the rubbing surface well-fitted into the side frames. Rinse all dirty water from the washboard and dry well after each use to prevent rust on a metal board.

*A Laundry Stove is Beneficial for Laundry Work:* If laundry work is done in the basement, a small stove for heating water, for boiling clothes, and for making starch is a great help. Two or three burner hot plates are often used instead of a stove. In case a wood or coal stove is used, the stove should be low with a front opening to the fire box so it may be easily filled.

*A Table Saves Time and Energy in Doing the Family Laundry:* A table used in the laundry room should be made of material that is easily cleaned, and equipped with easy-rolling casters. The table may be used for sorting both dirty and clean clothes, for starching clothes, or for sprinkling clothes. A table is of the correct height when the worker stands erect, places the arms against the body and rests the palms of her hands on the table top in an easy manner.

*A Clothes Basket May Lighten the Burden of Laundry:* A light-weight basket, such as a bushel fruit basket, can be used successfully in the laundry process. This type of basket has handles, is light weight, can be painted on the outside, and lined on the inside with a sack or muslin to protect the clothes from dirt or rough edges. Oilcloth may be used for a lining if the basket is placed on the damp ground.

When using the basket in the laundry room, place it on a bench or box about 18 inches in height. The bench can be moved more easily if equipped with easy rolling casters. The lining of the basket should be removable so it may be washed when necessary. Much energy is saved when the basket of wet clothes is placed on a child's steel wagon or an old baby buggy and pulled to the clothes line. This avoids stooping over at the line to get clothes out of the basket.

*Other Pieces of Small Equipment May be Useful on Laundry Day:* If clothes need boiling or disinfecting, a container will be needed. Many types of wash boilers are on the market. Wash boilers are made of copper, tin and iron. A tin boiler with a copper bottom and rim has been used quite satisfactorily. The old black iron pot is still used for boiling clothes when laundry work is done in the back yard. It is very heavy and rusts easily, which may cause iron rust on the clothes.

A large dipper, a bucket, a clothes stick made from an old broom handle, and a pair of curtain stretchers are conveniences during the laundry process. Curtain stretchers may be bought, or made by winding strips of cloth on a wooden frame to which the curtains are pinned. See Figure 3.

*Some Useful Equipment for Starching is Suggested:* A double boiler, a measuring cup, a set of measuring spoons, a large pan and a large spoon for stirring starch are recommended.

*Providing Adequate Drying Equipment for Clean Clothes is a Necessity:* It is best to have both an indoor and outdoor clothes line. Indoor drying equipment may be portable lines with a reel, stationary lines of cotton rope, galvanized wire or drying racks. If rope is used, it should be boiled before using. There are several types of drying racks on the market. One type of rack is made in the form of a tree with tiers of arms and rope inserted in the arms of each tier. There is also a ceiling type which may be drawn to the ceiling when not in use. See Figure 3. Hot air cabinets are also available on the market.

Plenty of clothes pins and a substantial container should be provided. Clothes pin bags may be made of oilcloth but are best made of washable material. Oftentimes an old boiler or bucket with a handle and a wire joined to the handle with a bent upper end for hooking over the clothes line is used. An apron clothes pin bag is not recommended because it strains the back of the worker.

*Equipment for Sprinkling Clothes is Advocated:* A bottle or a fruit jar can be used for sprinkling the clothes. If a bottle is used, a sprinkler with a cork stopper may be bought. If a fruit jar is used, remove the inside of the jar lid by breaking the stone with a hammer. Use a very small brad or finishing nail for making holes in the top. Drive the nail from the top side toward the inside in order to prevent ragged edges. The holes should not be larger than a pin head. A flat pickle or mayonnaise jar has proved quite satisfactory. See Figure 3.

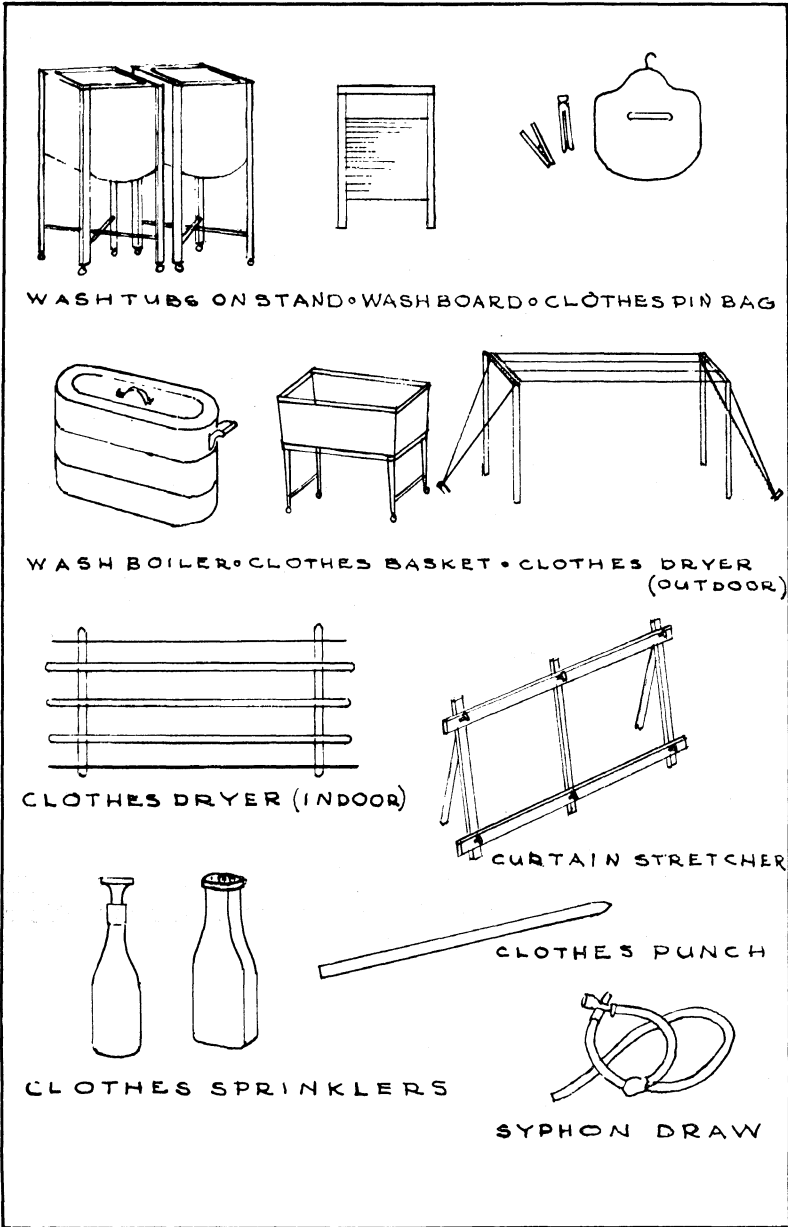


Figure 3.—Convenient Laundry Equipment.

*A Good Ironing Board with a Comfortable Stool Makes Ironing an Easier Task:* An ironing board may be built into the wall or in a cabinet that fastens to the wall, or it may be a portable board which can be moved from place to place. If there is an upstairs to a house it is well to have a portable type upstairs for occasional pressing. A built-in ironing board should have a small cabinet space for storage of the iron and pressing cloths.

An ironing board should be rigid, fairly wide, at least 12 or 14 inches, and taper at one end. If it is a built-in ironing board, the brace underneath should not extend too near the small end.

An ironing board with a good pad and cover makes ironing easier. The padding can be several thicknesses of old blankets or pieces of canton flannel or table padding. The padding must be smooth, thick and firm. An ironing board cover may be made of muslin or sheeting. It is well to have three or four so they may be laundered when necessary. See Figure 4.

*The Type of Iron Used Influences the Quality of Laundry Work:* Electric, gasoline or charcoal heated irons are used for ironing. Gasoline irons save more time and energy than the flatirons, but electric irons are most desirable. An electric iron for doing the home laundry should be light in weight. The qualities to be preferred in an electric iron are a pointed end, a beveled edge, automatic heat control, and a comfortable, non-heating handle that fits the hand of the worker. See Figure 4. An iron rest or rack for placing the hot iron saves burning the cloth.

**Suggestive Working Heights for Laundry Equipment**  
(Height of Equipment Given in Inches)

Height of Worker	Table	Sink	Stove	Tub	Ironing Board
5 ft. 2 in.-----	32"	30"	32"	34"	30½"
5 ft. 3 in.-----	32"	31"	32"	35"	30½"
5 ft. 4 in.-----	32½"	31"	32½"	35"	31"
5 ft. 5 in.-----	32½"	31"	32½"	35"	31"
5 ft. 6 in.-----	33"	31½"	33"	35½"	31"
5 ft. 7 in.-----	33"	32"	33"	35½"	31½"
5 ft. 8 in.-----	33½"	32"	33½"	36"	31½"

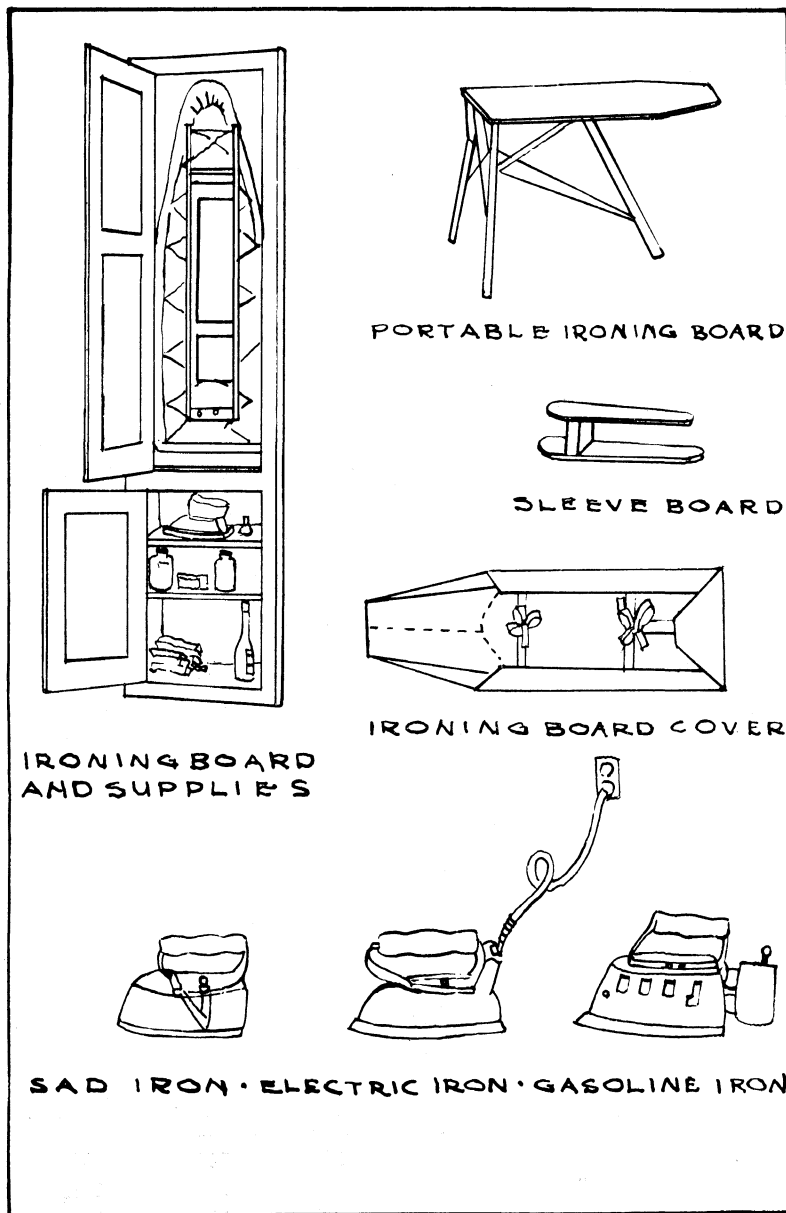


Figure 4.—Adequate Ironing Equipment.



**HINTS ON THE SELECTION AND USE OF LAUNDRY SUPPLIES**

The best selection and use of supplies for home laundry are necessary if good results are to be obtained. Suitable equipment will not produce clean, well-laundered clothes unless the best supplies have been used.

Laundry supplies consist of water and water softeners, soaps, washing powders, bluing, bleaching agents and starches. It is not only necessary to have a cupboard for storing laundry supplies but it is recommended that these supplies be chosen and used with care.

*The Choice of Water and Water Softeners is Important:* There are two kinds of water—hard and soft. Soft water is best for laundry purposes as it is a good solvent and forms suds easily when soap is added. A bountiful supply of clean, pure, soft water at every home would tend to make home laundry an easier task. Much of the natural water from wells and lakes is filled with undissolved materials and minerals. Such minerals as calcium, sodium, iron and magnesium are often present in water that has passed through the ground. For this reason rainwater is usually softer than ground water.

As a rule water filled with sodium compounds is fairly soft and needs no treatment. If water contains much calcium, iron or magnesium, it is called hard water. The quantity of minerals present determines the hardness of the water. Water is often classed as temporarily hard or permanently hard. Temporary hard water can be softened by boiling and allowing it to stand until the chemicals deposit in the bottom of the container. An example is lime deposits in teakettles. Permanently hard water can only be softened by the addition of chemicals.

*Soap* will soften hard water if used in large quantities, but this is expensive and it forms a sticky scum on the water which settles on clothes thus producing a gray tinge, or brown spots if hardness is due to iron.

*Borax* is a good water softener, but is very expensive. It may be used for softening water in which delicate silk and wool fabrics are to be washed.

*Sal Soda* or washing soda is one of the best and least expensive water softeners. It is recommended for softening water in which cotton and linen fabrics are to be washed. It is six times as effective, pound for pound, as soap. Clothes washed in water, which has been softened with sal soda, should be rinsed in several waters to prevent a yellowish tinge appearing.

*Lye* is often used as a water softener and will remove lime from water, but must be used in a weak solution in order to prevent weakening of the fabric.

*Boiling and filtering* water will soften temporarily hard water, but is a very slow process for the average homemaker.

Iron can be removed from water by drawing the water and letting it stand in tubs open to the air. The iron will cling to the sides and bottom of the tub. Strain the water through a thick cloth, and most of the iron rust will remain in the cloth.

The following suggestions might be helpful for water softening:

*Fairly soft water*—Use one to two level tablespoons of sal soda to each 10 gallons of water.

*Moderately hard water*—Use three to four level tablespoons of sal soda to each 10 gallons of water.

*Very hard water*—Use five to six level tablespoons of sal soda to each 10 gallons of water.

Many homemakers make a test of hard water to find the amount of water softener needed to soften the water. This test may be made by first filling the washing machine with hot water and measure in a small amount of sal soda, probably one-half teaspoon for each gallon of water. Wait until the water softener reacts, which will probably take five minutes for one of the mild softeners, and 10 minutes for washing soda. When curds have formed, dip out a pint of the water and add one or two teaspoons of soap. If the soap makes a good suds, the water is properly softened. If the soap fails to make suds measure in a little more water softener and give it time to react. Repeat this process until the soap forms a good suds in the water. Keep a record of the amount of water softener used to obtain the best suds and use this as a guide for future wash days.

*Good Soap is Invaluable on Laundry Day:* A good quality soap is invaluable for producing clean, white, sweet smelling clothes. Soap is made by heating fats or oils with lye in prescribed quantities. The quality of homemade or commercially made soap depends upon the proportions of materials used, the temperature for cooking and the mixing process. If too much fat was used, the soap is greasy and leaves greasy spots on the clothes. If too much lye was used, the soap is strong

and has a tendency to weaken fibers of the clothes. Place a small piece of soap to the tongue; if it burns the tongue, too much lye was used.

Avoid all laundry soaps that are filled with water softeners or large quantities of rosin, salt, pumice and sand as is often found in yellow soaps, naphtha and washing soda. A good laundry soap should be semi-dry, neutral and free from excess lye or fat.

Soaps are available in powder, flake, bead and bar forms. Soap flakes are often used for home laundering, as they dissolve easily, are mild, neutral and free from excess water, but are usually more expensive than bar soap. Flakes are recommended for delicate silks, wools and rayons and other materials that are not fast color. It is wasteful to use expensive soap flakes on ordinary cotton clothes when a cheaper bar soap would do the cleaning as well. Stronger soaps may be used on heavy dirty clothes as men's work clothes.

A soap solution or soap jelly dissolves more readily than bar soap. Soap jelly may be prepared by shaving one bar of soap on a household grater or put through a food chopper and heat the flakes in three quarts of water. Do not let the solution boil as this turns it yellow. Store the soap jelly in a closed container and use for laundry when needed. Enough soap jelly can be made at one time for a month's supply. Scraps of soap can be easily used in this way. Bar soap should not be rubbed directly on clothes as it weakens the material.

*Washing Powders are Seldom Needed in Laundry Work*—Washing powders often contain soap powders, scouring or abrasive substances and water softeners, such as borax or washing soda. If water softeners or bleaching agents are needed it is less expensive to buy them separately. Washing powders are often strong and may be used only on greasy, coarse work clothes such as men's coveralls.

*Bluing is Not Essential for Laundering Clothes*: It has been commonly understood over a period of years that bluing makes clothes whiter, but this is not true. If clothes have been properly washed, rinsed and dried in the sunshine they will remain white. When it is necessary to whiten clothes, a bleaching agent should be used. When bluing is used to whiten clothes, the bluing merely covers the yellowness and produces a grayish-white appearance. If the use of bluing is continued, the clothes become dingy. Eliminating the bluing process saves expense and time as well as giving way to the use of better methods of whitening clothes.

If the homemaker insists upon using bluing, she should use the best kind. There are three types of bluing on the market—Prussian, aniline and ultra-marine. Prussian blue is usually prepared in liquid form and is soluble in water. It is easy to use and gives a desirable shade of blue, but often contains iron. When the iron in the bluing unites with alkali from soap, it may cause rust spots on the clothes. Bluing can be tested for iron by adding it to some concentrated ammonia solution or a strong sal soda solution, then heating the two. If a reddish brown color results, iron is present.

Insoluble bluing as aniline or ultra-marine is available in ball, cube, or powder form. It should be tied in a heavy cotton flannel bag before using because it is insoluble and may streak the clothes unless the water is stirred well before using.

*Bleaching Agents are Useful in Keeping Clothes White:* Clothes that have been stored for a long time or that are poorly washed may become yellow and dingy. If clothes are not properly cared for and laundered, they will need bleaching. There are several methods used in bleaching clothes. Sunshine is one of the best bleaching agents; therefore, all white clothes should be dried in the sunshine if possible. Permitting the dew to form on clothes is another method often used as a bleach. Whether bleaching is done by the sun or the dew, the garment should be clean and wet. These two methods are the least expensive and least harmful to the fabric. Only white cotton and linen clothes need bleaching. Sunshine will tend to make silk clothes yellow rather than white.

Clothes may also be bleached by the use of chemicals, but the garment should be rinsed several times to prevent weakening the fiber. Bleaches are never to be used on colored clothes as it will remove the color of the fabrics as well as the stain. The chemicals most frequently used are ammonia, borax, Javelle water, oxalic acid, hydrogen peroxide and commercial bleaches.

Ammonia, borax and hydrogen peroxide are mild, effective bleaches and will not harm cotton or linen fabrics if used in small quantities. One teaspoonful of concentrated ammonia solution for each gallon of water is usually sufficient for a bleach.

*Javelle Water Formula*—Dissolve one pound of washing soda in one quart of water in an enamel or earthenware vessel. Mix one-fourth pound of chloride of lime in an earthen or enamel vessel with a pint of water added slowly. Add the

chloride of lime several times at intervals of about an hour and allow it to settle over night. In the morning, drain the liquid from the heavy sediment and strain through a piece of muslin. Keep the solution tightly corked in a glass container, and label.

In treating stains with Javelle water, stretch the stained portion over a bowl filled with water and apply Javelle water to the stain with a medicine dropper. Rinse the article immediately in a solution of oxalic acid. Be sure to remove all Javelle water and oxalic acid by thoroughly rinsing the garment several times. Javelle water will remove several types of stains, but should be used only on white cotton or linen fabrics because it will remove color. It should not be used on silk, wool and certain rayons. The oxalic solution can be made by dissolving one ounce of oxalic acid crystals in one and one-half cups of water. Apply the same as the Javelle water and follow the same precautions in rinsing. For further instructions on removal of stains, refer to U. S. D. A. Bulletin, No. 1474, "Stain Removal from Fabrics—Home Methods."

Commercial bleaching agents have proved quite satisfactory and should be used according to directions on the bottle.

*Wise Selection and Use of Starch is Invaluable to Well-Laundered Clothes:* Starch is used to give body to clothes and household linens which was removed by the laundry process. Starch is also used to form a film over the surface of the cloth when ironed so that dirt clings to the starch film instead of penetrating into the cloth.

One can be fairly certain of results in starching if the clothes are thoroughly dry when starched. It is almost impossible to starch clothes directly from the rinse water and be successful because there is always a variation of the quantity of water in the clothes.

The amount of starch used in the starching process will be determined by the kind of material and the desired stiffness. Clothes that have been put through a wringer require more starch for the desired stiffness than clothes that have been wrung by hand.

Most starches on the market are of vegetable origin, being manufactured from the tubers of potatoes, of the seeds of rice and wheat or corn. The four starches mentioned are similar in composition, but consist of various size granules that burst and form a gelatin-like mass when hot water is added. The

thick paste covers the cloth and fills the spaces between the threads, which aids in stiffening and strengthening the material. Starch paste used on clothes produces a smooth, pliable surface that holds down the tiny fuzz.

The kind of starch selected will depend upon its use and the material on which it is to be used. Cornstarch is the most common type used and is comparatively effective and inexpensive. Wheat, commonly called flour starch, is sometimes used when a very stiff fabric is desired. Potato starch is the least stiff, but gives a very smooth, soft finish to the material. Rice starch may be used, but gives a softer, fuller finish to the material than potato starch. Other stiffening agents used for certain materials are glue or gelatin solutions for wool and silk. Gum arabic and gum tragacanth are often used as starch substitutes to stiffen organdy, voile and batiste. It is suggested that 1 ounce of gelatin or gum arabic to 1 pint of water makes a desired solution for stiffening agents. Use one part of the gelatin solution to 8 to 15 parts of hot water and 1 part of the gum arabic solution to 5 to 10 parts of hot water depending upon the material and the amount of stiffness desired. Add the cold water to gelatin or gum arabic and heat until it is dissolved.

Alum is often added to the starch to make it penetrate more evenly and thin the starch without losing its stiffening qualities.

Borax gives gloss, whitens and helps prevent starch from sticking to the iron. Add one-half teaspoonful of borax to each quart of starch. Lard and paraffin add smoothness and gloss to materials. Use one-half teaspoon of paraffin to each quart of starch paste, to prevent iron sticking to the material.

*Cooked Starch Formula*—To  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of starch add 1 cup of cold water and stir until starch is dissolved. Remove the scum and strain through a sieve. Add the starch mixture to  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of boiling water in a double boiler. Cook the mixture 15 to 20 minutes. If lumps have formed, strain through a sieve. Bluing may be added if blue materials are to be starched.

*Raw Starch Formula*—To 2 tablespoons of starch add 1 cup of cold water and  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoonful of borax. Mix well and dip the dry garment into the mixture. Rub the starch into the fabric and roll in a towel for at least an hour. Spread garment on the ironing board, cover with a thin cloth and iron with a hot iron. Raw starch may be used for starching collars and cuffs of men's shirts.

Starch all clothes with wrong side out and leave them turned until they are sprinkled. Use starch as hot as the hands will permit, especially for white clothes.

#### USING EFFICIENT METHODS OF PROCEDURE FOR LAUNDRY WORK

Efficiency in laundry work means spending the least possible time on the job, thus avoiding that tired, over-worked feeling. If the method of doing the task is standardized, the result will approach efficiency and the drudgery will be eliminated.

After the proper equipment has been chosen and arranged in the best manner, the next task is to make a plan for doing the laundry work. When the plan has been made, it should be followed in logical order until the procedure for doing the weekly laundry becomes a fixed routine the same as any other household task.

As far as possible, wash day should be the same day each week. Many homemakers now plan to do their laundry on Monday or Tuesday, but whatever day is chosen should fit into the weekly program.

*Mending Clothes Before Laundering is Advisable:* All clothes should be inspected for torn or worn places before being laundered. Holes in clothes are made larger after washing and get out of shape, which makes them more difficult to mend. Oftentimes the torn places are hung on the washing machine and made larger than before laundering. The homemaker can usually do a better job of mending clothes before they are washed than afterwards, especially on a starched article. It is considered best to turn all garments inside out before they are washed.

*Sorting Clothes Before Laundering Aids in Making it an Easy Task:* Clothes are sorted according to the way they are used. For example, napkins and dish towels are not washed with undergarments and hosiery. All clothes should be sorted on a table before laundered rather than sorting them on the floor as is often done. It is recommended that cotton and linens be washed together, but silks and woolens need special laundry treatment.

Much time and energy is saved if clothes are sorted, washed and hung on the line in the same order which they were sorted.

A suggested order of sorting clothes is as follows:

Table linens, pot lifters and dish towels.

Undergarments worn next to the body and sleeping garments.

Sheets, pillow cases and spreads.

Bath towels, face towels, wash cloths and hand towels used in the kitchen.

Household linens as table runners, dresser scarfs, and center pieces.

Light colored, slightly-soiled outer garments as mens dress shirts and wash dresses for women and children.

Hosiery

Dark colored, very dirty garments as men's work clothes and children's play clothes or coveralls.

Silks and rayons.

Woolens.

*Soaking Clothes is an Advantage in the Cleaning Process:*

It was formerly thought that soaking clothes over night was necessary if dirt was removed in the least possible time. It is now known that clothes were soaked over night because it was more convenient for the homemaker to put the clothes to soak before retiring so they would be ready for washing the next morning.

It has been found by experiment that clothes need not be soaked more than 15 or 20 minutes before washing. The purpose of soaking clothing is to loosen the dirt so it may be removed in less time. Soaking clothes for long periods before washing causes dirt particles to swell in the fibers, thus becoming so ground into the fabric that they are difficult to remove.

Either hot water or soap will set the dirt in clothes and make it harder to remove. Soap also sets the stains in materials if they have not been entirely removed before soaking. It is usually best to put clothes to soak in cold water if they are to be left over night, and warm water if they are to be soaked for only a short period. Use rust-proof container for soaking clothes.



*Washing Methods Influence the Quality of Laundry Work:* Remove clothes from the water in which they were soaked. A good washing machine is a time saver to the homemaker. It is often necessary to use a wash tub for doing the family laundry when the homemaker does not possess a washing machine. Fill the washer or tub with moderately hot water about 140-160 degrees Fahrenheit. If hard water is used, it should be softened as previously suggested. Enough soap jelly should be added, and the water agitated until there is a good soap suds on top, probably two or three inches. It is best not to fill tubs more than two-thirds full of water. When a washing machine is used, ask the dealer to demonstrate its use before buying. It is often suggested that no more than a fourth of a pound of clothes should be put in the washer or tub for each gallon of water.

The time for running the washing machine varies with the amount of dirt on the clothes. Most household linens are cleaned in five minutes in hot suds, but men's coveralls may require 12 to 15 minutes for cleaning. The major portion of cleaning is done in seven minutes when hot soap suds are used. Add warm water and soap as necessary to keep a good hot suds for each washer of clothes.

Too little soap leaves some grease emulsified so that some articles are not clean. Too much soap causes a film on the garment, thus preventing the water from being forced through the mesh of the fabrics.

When clothes are washed in a tub without machine power, rubbing the neck and cuff bands of clothes on a washboard may be necessary if they are to be properly cleaned. Keep plenty of water on the article when rubbing on a washboard; otherwise, the fabric may be injured.

*Rinsing Clothes Well is Advised:* Clothes should first be rinsed in water the same temperature as the wash suds. This removes all the first dirty suds and makes clothes easier to clean in clear, cold rinse water. Less energy is required if clothes are rinsed by moving them about in and under the water. Pulling the heavy wet clothes above the water wastes energy and does not aid in the process of cleaning. Clothes may be rinsed in the washer or by hand depending upon the homemaker's available time. It takes longer to rinse in the washer as the water must be changed, but less energy is required than when rinsing clothes by hand.

The second rinse water should be cool. The last rinse water should be cold as it toughens the fiber of the clothes before hanging out to dry. If bluing is used it may be added to the last rinse.

*Boiling Clothes is Not Always Necessary:* Unless clothes need sterilizing, it is not necessary to boil them. If clothes are well washed in hot soap suds and rinsed in several waters, it is not necessary to boil them unless a disease is prevalent in the family. Clothes must always be boiled when used by an ill person.

It is absolutely necessary to boil handkerchiefs used by a person with a cold. Clothes may be boiled about 10 minutes and should be kept beneath the water. Longer boiling tends to yellow white clothes. If clothes become yellow by boiling, the juice of one or two lemons added to the boiling water aids in the whitening process. A small amount of kerosene, probably one to six tablespoonfuls may be added to boiling water, but the clothes must be thoroughly rinsed to remove the odor of kerosene.

*Wringing Clothes Well is Conducive to Good Laundry Methods:* Clothes may be either wrung by hand, by an electric wringer, or by a hand wringer. More energy is used in wringing clothes with a hand wringer than by any other method. Wringers should be adjusted to the size of the garment inserted between the rollers. Sheets, table cloths, towels and napkins folded lengthwise with the warp threads can easily be put through the wringer. To prevent breakage of buttons, fold them inside the garment before putting it through the wringer.

*Use the Best Methods for Hanging Clothes on the Line:* Hanging clothes on the line in the correct manner decreases the amount of folding needed and the number of articles to be ironed.

Wipe the clothes line with a damp cloth before hanging the clothes on the line. Avoid letting garments become twisted as they come from the final rinse since it makes hanging clothes on the line an easier job. Hang all garments of a kind together on the line in the order in which they have been washed. For example, all towels may be hung together and all bed linens together.

Both an indoor and an outdoor clothes line are convenient but clothes should always be hung in the sunshine when possible, except white silk and colored clothes. Sunshine fades colored clothes and turns white silk yellow. If clothes lines are located to run east and west, the clothes will get more sunshine in the winter. White clothes may be hung on the south lines and colored clothes on the north lines for the best results in laundry work. Rayon and silk undergarments can be hung on a porch or in the laundry room without the use of clothes pins. All flat articles are best hung straight on the line as this method takes out wrinkles pressed in by wringing.

*Hints on Hanging Clothes on the Line:*

1. Overalls need very little ironing if they are not wrung from the last rinse water, but hung on the line to drip and dry.

2. Straightening selvages on sheets and towels by hand makes them dry straighter, thus requiring less ironing.

3. Men's shirts should be hung by the tails, instead of by the yokes as is often done.

4. Slips with wide or shadow-proof hems will dry better and faster if hung by the hems.

5. Dresses are best hung by the hem except very sheer ones or a colored dress with light colored collar and cuffs. This type of dress is best hung by the shoulders with the hems down to prevent dirty water leaving streaks on the light colors.

6. Hang sheets on the line with right side out and hems down. Fold hems up on each side of the line, pinning in place with three clothespins, one in center, and one at each end.

7. Hang pillow cases on line one at a time with open end down. If wind blows severely and will whip out the hems, hang them with hems up to line.

8. To conserve line space, hang napkins on top of towels and straighten selvages.

9. Handkerchiefs can be pinned to a sheet or towel with a safety pin before going to the clothes line to save space and time. This is especially helpful on a cold winter day.

10. Hanging stockings by the toe rather than by the silk top prevents the leg of the article from getting out of shape.

11. Much time and energy is saved if all starched clothes are hung together on the line.

12. Hang clothes pins in a bag on the line and push bag along the line as pins are needed.

13. Household linens that are to be folded during the ironing process must not be hung on the line through the center where the crease is to be made since repeated creasing and folding causes cracks and worn places; therefore it is usually best to hang about one-third of article over the line. Hanging articles by the corners causes wear as the article blows against the line. Do not hang starched articles where they are exposed to a strong wind as it drives out the starch.

*Methods of Removing Clothes From the Line Influences Further Laundering:* Clothes should be removed from the line as soon as possible after they are dry in the order in which they were placed on the line. For example, take all the bath towels of a kind and fold entire group together. These are ready to be stored in the linen closet since it is a waste of time to iron bath towels. Sheets may be folded one at a time and placed in a group. It is not necessary to iron clean sheets. The hems and selvages may need a little pressing. It is convenient to remove all starched clothes from the line at once and place in a bundle on the table to be sprinkled later.

Clothes that are to be ironed without dampening require less ironing if folded when removed from the line. A basket placed on a steel wagon or a table near the clothes line provides a suitable container for placing the clean folded clothes.

*Hints on Sprinkling Clothes:* Starched clothes are easier ironed if they are sprinkled or dampened and left for seven or eight hours or overnight so that the moisture may penetrate through all the material. Flat articles as household linens that have been previously folded may be sprinkled with warm water and stacked in a pile. Starched garments should be rolled tightly and wrapped to exclude air, which prevents moisture from evaporating.

*Ironing Can be Done in an Easy Manner:* Much energy can be saved if the worker sits on a comfortable stool with a back when doing the ironing. If the worker stands while ironing a rubber or cork mat or a rug will protect the nerves and muscles of the feet.

Clean the iron occasionally with fine steel wool to remove starch paste or other blemishes. Rubbing a little beeswax or paraffin over the iron while hot and then wiping it off will tend to make the iron slick, thus lessening fatigue in ironing. Be sure that the iron is hot enough that it makes a hissing sound when moisture is applied before beginning to iron.

Iron with the thread of the material when possible to prevent material wrinkling. Most household linens are more attractive when ironed on the wrong side than on the right side.

All embroidery and laces should be ironed on the wrong side. The design of the embroidery shows more clearly on top side if a heavy padding, such as a piece of outing, is placed underneath the linen when it is being ironed. Applique, knitted laces and rick-rack trimming are more attractive when the same method is used.

Napkins are ironed with the straight lines of the fibers. If there is a design, it is ironed first on the wrong side. Pull the corners to make them square. (Figure 5-a). Then bring the hemmed edges together. (Figure 5-b). Crease the center fold with a hot iron and bring to the hemmed edges. (Figure 5-c). Fold the napkin crosswise in center, (Figure 5-d). Turn so the opened hemmed edge is on top and bring one end over to the folded edge so the open corners will be on the outside. (Figure 5-e.) When completed, the napkin will have an accordion-like fold as shown in Figure 5-f, which makes it very easily opened when it is picked up from the table.

Face and hand towels may be ironed on the right side, **but the hems and decorative stitches as monograms are most attractive when ironed on the wrong side.** Since towels usually hang on towel rods, the first fold must be lengthwise. **Fold in thirds lengthwise** as shown in Figure 5-g. Be sure that the design is in the center on the top side. Figure 5-h shows the towel folded twice lengthwise. After the towel has been folded twice lengthwise, fold it in the center crosswise, letting the two hemmed edges come together. See Figure 5-i. Limited drawer or shelf space may require that the towel be folded again crosswise.

Table cloths, luncheon cloths and center pieces for the dining room table should be ironed on the wrong side until almost dry, then pressed on the right side, except embroidered designs. This prevents the linens from having such a shiny, unattractive finish. Large table or dinner cloths should be

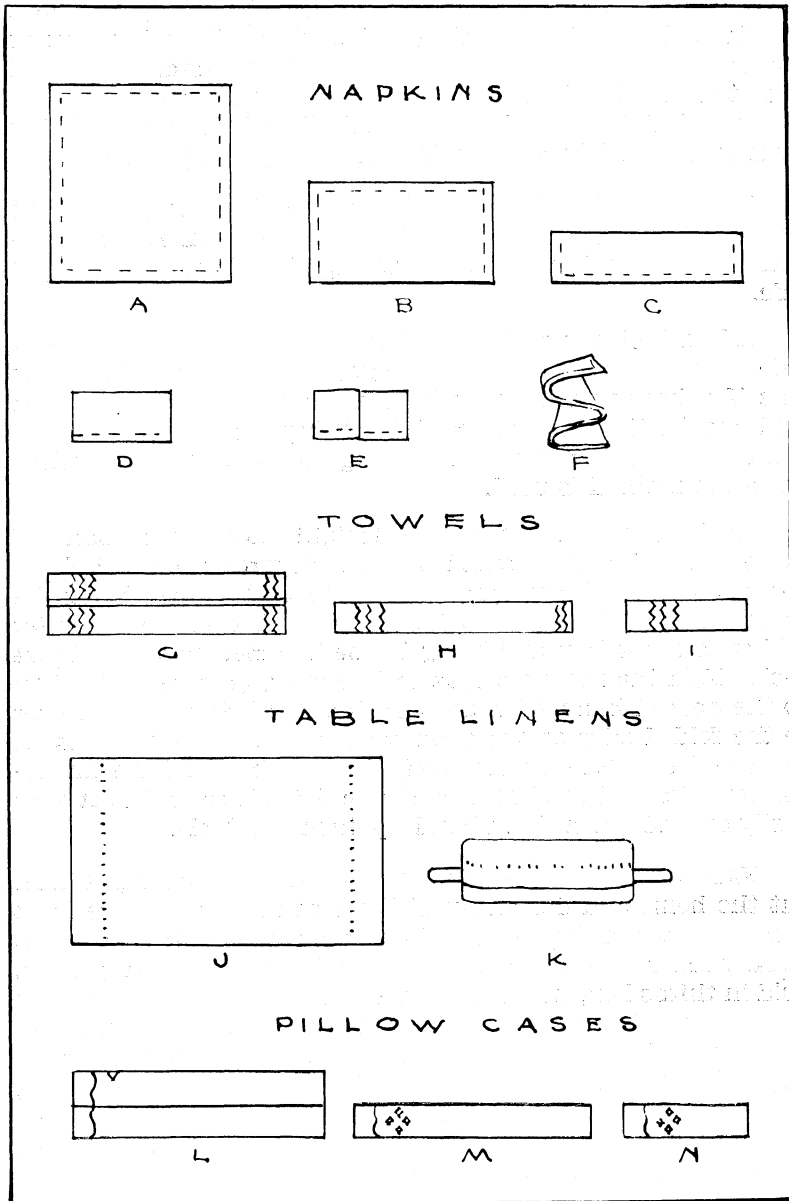


Figure 5.—Methods of Ironing and Folding Household Linens

folded in the center lengthwise. See Figure 5-j. A table cloth with several creases bulging detracts from the beauty of the table. After the table cloth has been folded, it should be rolled on a padded roll and stored in the dining room linen drawer or closet. A roll may be made by using an old broom stick or a hoe handle and wrapping it with cloth, such as old blankets, until the roll is about two inches in diameter. Small luncheon cloths and center pieces should not be folded or creased. Roll them on the same type of rod as suggested for tablecloths. Store rolls of linens in dining room linen closets. Begin rolling the cloth on the rod at the hem and roll the entire cloth on the roll. See Figure 5-k.

Dresser scarfs, table runners and center pieces for rooms of the house are ironed, placed on linen rods and stored in the same manner as dining room linens.

Pillow cases are ironed almost dry on the wrong side, turned and ironed completely dry on the right side. Pillow cases are folded lengthwise in thirds. See Figure 5-l and m. Then fold them crosswise once as shown in Figure 5-n.

*Providing Storage Space for Clothes Before and After Laundering is Considered:* Some place provided for the storage of dirty clothes lessens the task of collecting clothes on laundry day. Soiled clothes may be stored in a laundry bag, in a dirty clothes closet, or in a clothes hamper. It is well not to store greasy, extremely dirty or damp clothes with slightly soiled clothes. Hose, handkerchiefs, sleeping garments and slightly soiled top clothes may be stored in the laundry bag. Household linens may be stored in a clothes hamper and men's dirty work clothes stored in a well ventilated clothes box. See Figure 6.

Clean clothes may be sorted and stored near the place where they will be used. Store kitchen linens near the dish-washing center, dining room linens in the dining room, bath room linens in the bath room and bed linens and scarfs in the linen closet. This storage space is best located near the bedroom, probably in the central part of the house, as the hallway.

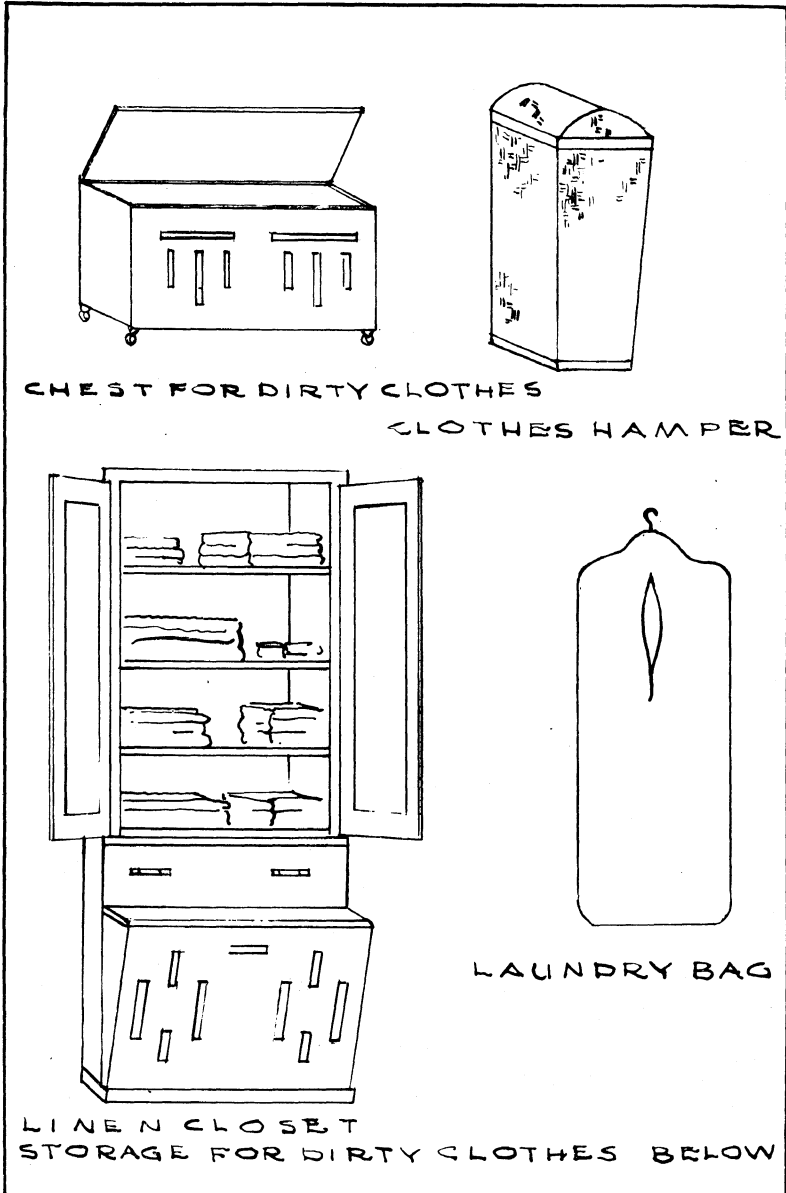


Figure 6.—Adequate Storage for Dirty and Clean Clothes



**SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIAL HOUSEHOLD  
LAUNDRY PROBLEMS**

Many household articles need special care in washing and ironing to get the best results. It is suggested that such articles as quilts, curtains, blankets and pillows be laundered on a separate day from the day set aside for doing the regular family laundry.

The method of washing special articles will be determined by the kind of fabric. Silk and woolens cannot be washed by the same process as cottons and linens. Woolen and silk material require a milder, more even temperature, and greater care in handling. The water should be kept lukewarm, probably 100 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Neither silk nor wool should be boiled during the laundry process, as extreme heat has a tendency to yellow white silk and woolen materials. It is very important that water remain the same temperature throughout the laundry process for silk and wool, but may vary for cotton and linen.

Use a mild neutral soap for washing wool and silk, and do not rub the soap directly upon the article. The water for washing silk and wool should always be softened as hard water leaves these fabrics stiff. Do not wring silk and wool, but simply squeeze the water out gently.

*Washing Blankets Requires Special Methods:* Both cotton and wool blankets can be washed very successfully at home if good methods are used. Follow the same directions given above as to temperature of water, soaps, wringing, and hanging for wool and cotton fabrics. Shake blankets as they are placed in the water. Choose a clear, sunny day, not too windy, for washing blankets so they will dry quickly.

Unless blankets are extremely dirty, soaking is not necessary. Place only one blanket at a time in the washing machine and operate the machine about 15 minutes for each blanket. Rinse well in two or three waters. Blankets do not need bluing. Hang on line to dry in a breezy place. If the blankets are striped, hang them with the stripes vertical so the colors may not run across the blanket, especially if the colors are not fast to washing. Blankets should be brushed when almost dry to raise the nap.

One method for washing woolen blankets is often suggested. Use moderately warm water with a good lather of melted soap, and add one tablespoonful of ammonia to two

gallons of water. Keep the container closed while using, so the ammonia will not evaporate. Place the blanket in the water and allow to stand for an hour. Rinse well and hang out to dry.

*Washing-Up the Pillows is Important:* For each pillow, make a bag of cheesecloth or thin unbleached muslin. The bag is best when made about the same size as the pillow. Leave an opening about six or eight inches in one end of the bag. Rip an opening the same length in one end of the pillow, and sew the two openings together. Shake the feathers from the pillow into the bag and rip them apart. When all the feathers have been emptied, sew up the opening in the bag. Turn the pillow cover wrong side out and put through the laundry. This process is used when the feathers do not need washing. Place the feathers in the pillow the same way in which they were emptied, and sew up the end.

Pillows can be washed without removing the feathers if the feathers need washing. Prepare a tub of warm mild soap suds. Be sure there is enough water to cover the pillows well. Move the pillows in and under the water until they are clean. Rinse well in lukewarm water changing it several times or until the water no longer appears dirty. Squeeze out as much water as possible then place the pillow on a sheet in a warm place or pin the pillow to the clothes line in a sunny windy exposure. Several times while the feathers are drying, change the bag on the line and toss the feathers about in the bag to lighten them and let the sun reach all of them.

*Washing Glass Window Curtains Requires Special Care:* Dust, light and wear weaken glass curtains, which requires that they have special care in laundering to prevent splitting. Measure the width and length of the curtains before laundering so they may be stretched to dimensions while drying.

If curtains are washed in a machine, place them in a thin muslin bag before washing them. Move the curtains about carefully in the suds and squeeze dry rather than twisting them. Curtains stay clean longer if a thin starch paste, gelatin or gum arabic is used as a stiffener.

Ecru or cream curtains may be retinted by placing them in a weak solution of tea or coffee. Test the strength of the color on a piece of muslin before using on the curtains.

Place the curtains in the stretcher, (see Figure 3) and adjust to correct size and dry them. If curtain stretchers are

not available, place curtains on a sheet, spread on the floor and pin curtains, using measured dimensions. Curtains that are dried on stretchers need no ironing.

*How to Launder Infected Clothes Often Confronts Every Homemaker:* Clothes used by people with any contagious disease need special laundry treatment. Separate storage space is needed for infected clothes since they will infect other clothes with which they come in contact. Neither should the clothes touch the skin or clothing of the person doing the laundry.

Boiling cottons and linens is the most direct method recommended for sterilizing infected clothing, but boiling is injurious to some fibers and also sets dirt and stains. Clothes may be boiled for 10 to 15 minutes depending upon the kind of germs present.

A person who disinfects clothing should scrub the hands and forearms with soap, water and nail brush about 10 minutes and then rinse in either the 1 to 1,000 solution of bichloride of mercury or the cresolis solution. Rubber gloves may be worn to protect the hands from the germs.

The United States Public Health Service makes the following suggestions for soaking infected clothing for an hour in solutions given below:

- A ½ percent solution of liquor cresolis compositus.
- A 1 percent solution of phenol (pure carbolic acid)
- A 5 percent dilution of the commercial solution of formaldehyde (formalin)

Every precaution should be taken in the prevention of germs entering the mouth of the worker or other people.

**SCORE CARD FOR THE HOME LAUNDRY**

Items	First Scoring	Final Scoring
I. Appropriate Place for Doing Home Laundry ----- 15		
1. Laundry room adjoining kitchen		
2. Basement room		
3. Enclosed back porch		
4. Wash house in back yard		
5. Open back porch		
6. Under shade of tree in back yard		
II. Suitability of Room for Laundry Purposes ----- 15		
1. Size suited to equipment used		
2. Well lighted—natural and artificial		
3. Ventilation adequate		
4. Floor—concrete or wood		
5. Ease of cleaning backgrounds		
6. Attractive in appearance		
III. Adequate Water Supply and Disposal ----- 20		
1. Running water		
a. Heated and soft		
b. Cold and hard		
2. Indoor pump		
3. Water from well outside		
4. Floor drain		
5. Water carried outside		
IV. Laundry Equipment ----- 20		
1. Washing machine		
a. Electric motor		
b. Gasoline motor		
c. Hand power		
2. Tubs		
a. Stationary		
b. Movable		
c. On permanent stand		
d. Water outlet		
3. Washboard		
4. Boiler and stick		
5. Clothes line		
a. Indoor		
b. Outdoor		
6. Clothes pins		
7. Clothes basket		
8. Stove		
9. Sorting table		
10. Supply cupboard		
11. Storage for dirty clothes		
a. Closet		
b. Hamper		
c. Laundry bag		

SCORE CARD FOR THE HOME LAUNDRY—(Continued)

V. Ironing Equipment .....	20
1. Electric ironer	
2. Irons	
a. Electric	
b. Gasoline	
c. Sad	
3. Iron stand	
4. Ironing board	
a. Built-in with cabinet for supplies	
b. Portable	
c. Suitable pad and cover	
d. Proper height	
5. Sleeve board	
6. Stool or comfortable chair	
VI. Arrangement of Equipment.....	10
1. Washing center	
a. Washing machine	
b. Wash tubs (2)	
c. Clothes basket on stand	
d. Water and hose	
e. Drain	
f. Washboard, buckets, etc.	
2. Starching and sprinkling center	
a. Cupboard with supplies	
b. Equipment as buckets, cups, spoons, etc.	
c. Stove and hot water	
d. Table, sprinkler	
e. Clothes basket	
3. Drying center	
a. Dryer—indoor and outdoor	
b. Clothes pins	
c. Clothes pin bag	
4. Ironing center	
a. Ironing board	
b. Iron	
c. Chair or stool	
d. Hanging rack	
TOTAL SCORE - - - -	100





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