

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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ADULT  
CLOTHING DEMONSTRATION

Second Year  
Demonstration No. 1

*Renovation of Clothing*

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# *Adult Clothing Demonstration*

## *Second Year---Demonstration No. 1*

### RENOVATION OF CLOTHING

Renovation of fabrics and household furnishings means renewal, and includes many processes which should be known to the housewife. The cost of renewal in time and money should be considered before purchasing, and this cost added to the initial cost. Fabrics may justify a large first cost if they are of a quality to be cleaned and dyed easily and at a small cost. It is possible and sometimes advisable to have renovation done by professionals but this method is expensive. It is an economy to pay for good quality materials that can be cleaned, dyed, pressed and possibly remodeled at home.

The processes of household renovation which should be known to the housewife include (1) removal of stains; (2) laundering; (3) dry cleaning; (4) dyeing; (5) pressing.

Fabrics should be cleaned as soon as necessary and always before storing for a season. The action of dirt, dust, perspiration and stains upon fabrics weakens the fiber, destroys the color and often makes renewal impossible. Any stain or spot should be removed while it is fresh. Clothes should be aired and allowed to become thoroughly dry before putting into a laundry bag or clothes hamper.

#### Removal of Stains

It is possible to remove most of the stains that occur on household fabrics if the attempt is made when the stain is fresh. If the source of the stain is unknown it is advisable to use cold water first as this will remove a great many stains without injuring the fabric and without fixing the stain on the fiber.

#### Common Stains and How to Remove Them

**Fruit and fruit juices:** Use boiling water; bleach if necessary. Difficult to remove after they become dry and are usually set by soap or any alkali. For peach stains use glycerine, or apply salt and lemon juice and expose to direct sunlight.

**Blood and Meat Juices.**—Use cold water, then wash in warm soapy water. Sponge with hydrogen peroxide to remove last traces.

**Bluing.**—Use boiling water.

**Chocolate and Cocoa.**—Wash in warm soapy water, soak in cold borax water and rinse in boiling water. Spots of fat remaining may be removed by a grease solvent.

**Coffee and Tea.**—If clear, use boiling water and then bleach, if necessary. If with cream, use cold water, then soap and cold water.

**Cream or Milk.**—Use cold water, then soap and cold water.

**Grass.**—Use grain or wood alcohol, or a bleaching agent, hot water and soap.

**Grease and Oils.**—Use absorbents or warm water and soap; gasoline, benzine or commercial cleaner.

**Ink.**—

1. If fresh, allow to stand in sweet or sour milk for several hours.
2. Wet in cold water, apply oxalic acid and rinse in ammonia water.
3. Cover with salt and lemon juice and expose to sunlight.
4. Bleach with Javelle water.
5. Use commercial ink eradicator.

**Iron Rust.**—Use salt and lemon juice and expose to direct sunlight.

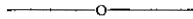
**Mildew.**—

1. Saturate the spot with lemon juice and salt and expose to direct sunlight.
2. Soak in sour milk over night.
3. Use Javelle water or potassium permanganate.

**Scorch.**—Moisten and expose to direct sunlight.

**Shoe Paste or Polish.**—

1. Soap and warm water for paste.
2. Turpentine for paste containing turpentine.
3. Potassium permanganate or Javelle water.
4. Alcohol on wool.



## LAUNDERING

The most common type of renovation is laundering with soap and water. This method is much less expensive than dry cleaning and may be applied to many of the furnishings, such as blankets, curtains and draperies which are usually dry cleaned. When these furnishings are sent to the cleaner the cost of renewal adds materially to their original cost and, therefore, may not represent an economy.

In order to launder fabrics successfully it is necessary to keep in mind the effect of soap, water, sunshine and heat upon the fiber and color of the different fabrics. While cotton, linen, silk and wool may all be laundered by washing and ironing, certain modifications of the process must be made according to the nature of the fiber and whether it is colored or white. Colored clothing, silks and wools should be washed separately for they require special treatment. The following points should be kept in mind in handling these:

**Colored Fabrics.**—Colors may be preserved to a great extent by the use of cool water, soap solution and the use of soap dyes. If the water causes the color to "run" or "bleed" add salt to the water at once, but do not use

it unless necessary as salt hardens the water. Setting the color with salt, vinegar, alum or any of the various substances sometimes recommended is not likely to have a permanent effect and the process may need to be repeated whenever the garment is laundered. Colored clothes should not be soaked, nor should they be boiled or exposed to too high a temperature in washing, rinsing or ironing. When a color is likely to fade or run, rapid washing is safest. The material should be rung as dry as possible and rolled in a cloth to absorb extra moisture. An even safer method is to shake the garment dry. Colored clothes should never be placed in the sun to dry. They should be ironed on the wrong side.

Hosiery should always be washed separately and in water in which nothing else has been washed. Use a soap solution and do not rub soap on hose. Hang in shade to dry. Silk hose will last longer if washed immediately after each wearing, as the perspiration, if left in, rots the fiber.

**Silk and Wool Fabrics.**—Silk and wool are animal fibers and when moist are very sensitive to the action of sunlight, heat, friction and strong alkali. They should be washed in a warm, soapy water and rinsed as many times as necessary in warm water. Do not rub soap directly on the fabric as the alkali hardens and shrinks wool and causes silk to lose its gloss. Hard rubbing causes wool to shrink and will injure silk fabric. Do not twist or wring silk or wool. The water may be squeezed out. Silk should be wrapped in a towel or heavy cloth to absorb the moisture and ironed with a moderately hot iron while damp. White silk will turn yellow if placed in the sun to dry.

#### Dry Cleaning

Garments of delicate fabrics which are not washable should be dry cleaned. Because of the fire risk involved dry cleaning should not be done by the careless worker and never by anyone except under favorable conditions, such as plenty of air, a way of disposing of the gasoline after use and no opportunity for fire, such as cigars, matches, candles, gas lights or lamps, or a cook stove. An open flame will ignite the gasoline fumes at a distance of several feet.

To clean a garment with gasoline, cover it with the liquid, squeeze rather than rub it, and rinse it once or twice. White soap may be used as with water or some of the commercial dry cleaner soap may be added to the first amount of gasoline used. Thorough rinsing is as necessary in dry cleaning as in washing.

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#### DYEING

Dyeing is one means by which the housewife may renew the appearance of her wardrobe with but little expense. It is a means of restoring color to a faded garment or of completely changing the color. If directions are followed carefully, dyeing may be done in the home with very satisfactory results.

By making an inventory of the family clothing the housewife often finds that there is much good material in garments that, for various reasons,

are no longer useful in their present condition. Some have been outgrown, some are worn in spots, while others are only out of style or have faded. In order to make a satisfactory use of this material it is often necessary to restore the color or to change it entirely. It is sometimes advisable to dye garments or material on hand to correspond with the general color scheme of the new wardrobe that is being planned; example: gloves, stockings, ties, waists, or costume slips. The light colored silk dress worn in summer may be changed to a dark one for winter. The dyeing of materials for draperies, covers or spreads may be the solution to some home decoration problem.

Before beginning dyeing it is necessary to know, (1) the kinds of dyes; (2) your material as to kind, content and reaction to dyes; (3) color combinations.

**Dyes.**—There are several brands of reliable dyes on the market that are intended for home use. These come in packages and have directions for use printed on the package.

There are two general types of package dyes and the housewife must choose the dye according to the nature of the fabric to be dyed. One type dyes all kinds of materials and is called general dye. The other dyes either the silk and wool (animal fibers) or the cotton and linen (vegetable fibers) and is called specific dyes. The use for which the dye is intended is marked on the package, as is the amount of the vinegar or salt needed to fix the color. Unless these details are observed some difficulties may be encountered in dyeing.

**Material.**—It is necessary then to know whether the material to be dyed is of all animal or vegetable origin, or whether it is of mixed fibers. This may be determined by the following tests:

**Burning Test**—Take a small sample of the material and ignite with a match. Cotton and linen burn quickly with an odor of burning paper, very little ash is left. Wool and silk burn slowly, giving off an odor of burning hair or feathers, a small crisp ash or gummy ball is left. This test may be deceptive when only a small amount of the vegetable fiber has been mixed with the animal fiber, and for that reason it is advisable to make a chemical test for mixed fibers.

**Alkali Test**—Two tablespoonfuls of fresh household lye to one pint of water. Cover sample in this solution and boil. Wool will become jellylike in a few minutes and will entirely dissolve in fifteen minutes. Cotton will not be affected.

**Reaction to Dyes.**—Silk and wool may be dyed more satisfactorily than linen and cotton because of the fact that the animal fibers have a greater affinity for dyes than do the vegetable fibers. In dyeing silk and wool the color is readily absorbed into the body of the fibers and fixed by definite chemical change. Cotton and linen do not take dye in this way. The color is deposited on the outside of the fiber and only slight penetration takes place. This explains why we have a greater variety of the beautiful, deep, rich and enduring colors in silk and wool fabrics than in cotton and linen. Soft silks, as foulards, crepe de chines, georgettes, Japanese and Chinese

silks may be tinted or dyed successfully. It is not wise to attempt to dye the stiff silks, like satins and taffetas on account of the weighting added in the original dye baths. Test your silk for weighting by taking a small sample and lighting it with a match. The ash of the weighted silk retains the shape of the fabric and drops to pieces at a touch. Unweighted silk burns readily, leaving a small crisp ash in the form of a ball.

**Color.**—It is necessary to consider the original color of the material, as well as the color desired. Material may be dyed the same color, a darker shade of the same color or black. It cannot be dyed a lighter color unless the original color is removed.

### **Preparation of Material to Be Dyed**

1. If the garment to be dyed is to be made over, it is best to rip it and take out the hem, because the heavy seams and hems will not take the dye as evenly as one thickness of goods. If to be dyed whole, rip out the hems, tucks and plaits and remove the lining and trimmings. The hooks and eyes or snaps leave a mark on dyed goods, so if they are to be changed they should be removed before the dyeing begins.

2. Weigh the material.

3. Remove the spots and stains and wash, if necessary. Unless the fabric is thoroughly clean and free from spots it is useless to expect an even distribution of color unless dyed very dark. Stains that have been removed may have affected the fiber so that the dyeing will cause the spot or stain to reappear. Dye while wet.

**Dyeing.**—Follow directions given on the package of dye. The following suggestions have been taken from "Home Dyeing for Club Members," States Relations Service:

1. Dissolve the dye thoroughly in a quart of hot, soft water.

2. Strain slowly through two thicknesses of cheese cloth into a clean agate, enamel, brass or copper kettle (do not use tin or galvanized iron utensils, as they injure the dyeing qualities of the dye) containing three gallons of water for every pound of material, or enough water to cover the material and allow it to float.

3. For cotton materials add salt equal to one-fifth of the weight of the material to be dyed. This makes level and even shades. For silks and wool add the same proportion of salt and two tablespoons of strained vinegar to every pound of material. Stir well. The acid causes the dye to penetrate the material better.

4. Test the shade of the dye on a sample of the material to be dyed. By holding the wet sample against the light you can judge approximately the shade it will be when dry. The color looks darker when wet. Dry the sample, if you want to be sure of the final effect. If the color is too light add more dye until the desired shade is reached. If too deep, add more water.

5. Stir the dye before immersing the material in it. Wet the material in warm water before immersing it; otherwise it will dye unevenly. Spread out the folds of the material as it is immersed. Stir the material with a

smooth, wooden stick to prevent spots, streaks and heat wrinkles. Heat this dye gradually to the boiling point. For cotton, linen and silk boil at least half an hour, or until the desired shade is reached. Boiling deepens the shade. If the material is allowed to cool in the dye kettle, the shade will be deeper and the color more fast. Boiling shrinks wool, and for that reason the dye bath should be kept below the boiling point.

6. After dyeing, rinse thoroughly in cold water, changing the water until it becomes clear. Squeeze carefully. Shake the material until nearly dry. Spread it out in the house or in the shade until dry enough to press. Press while slightly damp.

**Tinting.**—Light weight fabrics, ribbons, laces and hose may be tinted by the use of one of the numerous soap dyes on the market. Other materials used for tinting are crepe paper, coffee, tea and ink. A glass of the tinted water held to the light will show about the same color that it will give to the material.

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### PRESSING

Pressing renews the appearance of a garment and should be done on the wrong side so as not to mark the material or to cause it to shine. Place a damp cloth over the material and press with a hot iron until nearly dry. If pressed until dry it will probably shine. Hang the garment where there is a good circulation of air until thoroughly dry. Never let the iron rest in one place, but keep it moving gently. Fold plaits and pin each plait to ironing board. Remove pins and press again to remove pin marks.

To remove shine from garments sponge the parts with ammonia water, (1 tablespoon of household ammonia to 1 quart of water). Cover with a wet cloth and iron until almost dry. Remove the cloth and brush the garment with a stiff brush to raise the nap.

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Note: No claim is made for originality in this bulletin. The material has been taken from well-known texts and bulletins for the use of the Home Demonstration Agents.