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## CARE AND REPAIR OF CLOTHING

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### THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER CARE

No matter how well clothes are selected, nor how attractive they are, no person is ever well dressed unless those clothes are given proper care. The well dressed woman is interested not only in selecting garments that are becoming in color, line and texture, but also in keeping them in excellent condition at all times. A well groomed appearance is not acquired accidentally. It is the result of conscientious and systematic care of both one's person and one's wardrobe. Carelessness in later life is often due to the fact that one has been careless about one's appearance while growing up.

The necessity for the care of clothing is due to these facts:

- a. Aids the wearer to maintain greater pride and self-respect.
- b. The clothes last longer.
- c. Clothing is always ready for use on the shortest notice.
- d. There is more demand for neatly dressed individuals than for those who are not so careful about their clothes.

### METHODS OF CARE

Different garments and different materials require separate methods of care, but all require care in some manner. The amount of attention depends on how often the garments are worn and the kind needed. The various methods are discussed under daily, occasional, and seasonal care.

### DAILY CARE

"Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

Daily care requires only a very few minutes, but to be effective, it must be done regularly. The satisfaction of having one's wardrobe in readiness at all times more than compensates for this small amount of effort.

**AIRING**—Clothes should be aired thoroughly before being placed in a closet. This freshens the garments, helps take out body odors, and also aids in restoring the garment to its original shape.

The garments may be placed on a hanger which is fastened to a clothes line, or hung out of the closet near an open window in the bedroom. The clothes closet should have circulation of air in it. If there is no window in the closet, leave the door open from time to time when windows of the room are open.

**HANGING**—Hang garments on coat hangers as soon as they are removed. This aids in keeping the garments in their proper shape. Padded hangers or those covered with velvet prevent garments from slipping from the hanger to the floor.

Give children small hangers and low hooks for their convenience. Never hang knitted garments—fold on shelf or in drawer. Bias garments are also usually better folded.

Hangers may be purchased at small cost, either in wire or wood. However, if these are not obtainable they may be made at home by polishing a smooth stick, the width of the shoulder of the garment, padding it to keep it from creasing the garment. Burn or bore a hole through the center to insert a wire with which to hang it. Emergency hangers may be made by rolling newspapers or magazines and tying them with a string in the center. Parts of barrel hoops, padded, may be also be used.

**BRUSHING**—Brush wool and silk clothes immediately after wearing. The longer dirt or dust is allowed to remain in garments, the harder it is to remove. Stand before an open window while brushing. Use long strokes brushing with the nap on napped materials. Turn back collars, revers, and tucks before brushing. A whisk-broom or brush with short, stiff bristles should be used when brushing wool materials. Use a very soft brush on silks so that the threads will not be broken.

**SHAKING**—Shaking is effective in removing surface dirt from cottons and linens. Brushing, on the other hand, tends to rub the dirt into the fiber.

**PRESSING**—Press clothes whenever necessary. If they are properly hung after each wearing, this will not be needed so often, but carefully pressed garments look fresher and newer and add much to the appearance of the wearer.

The ironing board should be well padded. The padding should be firm and smooth, but not too soft. An old blanket makes a very satisfactory pad. Heavy, unbleached sheeting makes a very strong and durable cover. There are a number of ways of making covers. Two methods are suggested in Fig. 1. Sleeve boards should be padded and covered in the same manner as the large board. Sleeve boards are not only useful in ironing sleeves, but can be used for infants' garments.

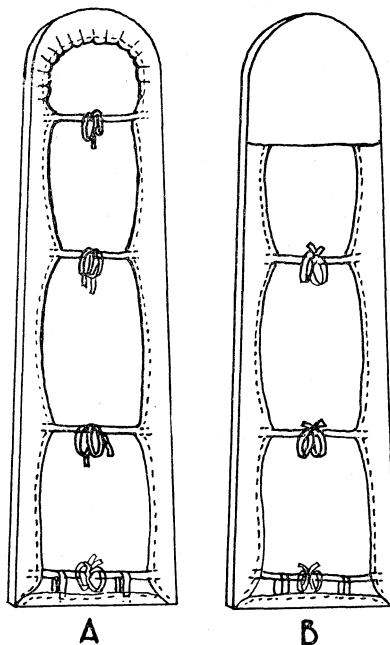


Fig. 1.—Two good Ironing Board covers.

Wool materials should be pressed through a damp cloth on the wrong side. Place a heavy cloth which has been dampened in warm water, between the iron and wool material (Drill is the best material to use for a pressing cloth). Press with a hot iron until the pressing cloth is dry. This will prevent a shiny appearance and marks of seams.

When pressing silk materials, press on the wrong side of the garment with a medium iron using cheese cloth or light weight muslin between the material and the iron. Should wrinkles not be removed with the first pressing, place a damp cloth on the ironing board and press. Remove and quickly press the silk while the steam is still in the cover. Very little or no dampness should be used on silks.

Pressing freshens cotton and linen and makes frequent laundering unnecessary. Cottons may be sponged and pressed on the right side, while linens should be pressed on the wrong side after sponging.

Do not use a hot iron for rayons, and press from the wrong side.

**STEAMING**—Velvet materials cannot be pressed directly with a hot iron. However, many wrinkles may be removed by hanging the garment over a tub of boiling water, or in a room which is filled with steam. Velvet may also be steamed by placing a damp cloth over an iron which has been turned upside down. Pass the wrong side of the velvet quickly over the damp cloth, always rubbing with the thread of the material, never on the bias. The pile of the velvet is raised by the steam. Place on a hanger and allow the garment to dry completely before putting in the closet.

**PERSPIRATION PROTECTION**—Airing and laundering of garments are most important in checking perspiration odors, but seldom is this sufficient, especially in the summer time. At all times we should be careful, and if there is any danger at all of offending, some sort of deodorant should be used. There are many good ones on the market that can be purchased at a very nominal cost. This is one item of care that should never be overlooked. Perspiration not only rots clothing but causes disagreeable discolorations. Care should be taken to follow absolutely the directions of the particular deodorant used.

**CARE OF HOSIERY AND UNDERWEAR**—Perspiration weakens fabrics and causes them to rot out quickly. Consequently, hose and undergarments should be laundered as soon as possible after they are removed. Daily laundering is recommended for additional service. Fresh undergarments daily are essential to the well groomed woman.

If hosiery is paired and put in a bag after laundering, there will be less likelihood of runs and catches than if put in a drawer or on shelves.

In no case is the old saying, "A stitch in time saves nine," more true than when considering knitted garments. If dropped stitches are caught as they first give way, the life of the garment may be indefinitely prolonged. Reinforcing of weak places before a break occurs will make it possible to receive longer service from the garment.

**CARE OF DRESSES**—In addition to airing, brushing and placing on hangers, minor repairs should be attended to as needed. These repairs include the sewing on of fasteners, replacing hems, mending rips and tears, and tacking cuffs, collars, belts and trimmings.

Spots and stains are much more easily removed when fresh. The lingerie touches—collars, cuffs, vests, etc.—which are very fashionable certain seasons must be kept in immaculate condition. Daily laundering may be required in such cases.

A dress should not be put in the clothes closet until it is in condition to be worn.

**CARE OF SHOES**—As soon as shoes are removed, wipe with a soft cloth to remove any dust or dirt which may cling to them. Polish as often as necessary to keep them looking like new. Polish not only improves the appearance of the shoe, but it softens and preserves the leather. The life of a pair of shoes is multiplied three-fold if never worn more than three days in succession.

Shoes will wear longer, look better and be more comfortable if heels are straightened as soon as they begin to wear unevenly. Rubber taps on heels add much to the comfort of the wearer. Soles should be watched carefully for breaks and the shoe resoled if the upper justifies the expense.



Fig. 2.—Shoe trees keep shoes in shape.

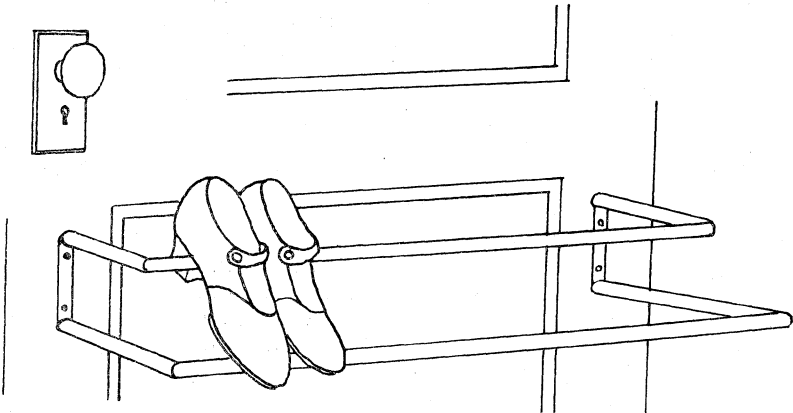


Fig. 3.—Shoe rack.

Shoe trees (Fig. 2) should be placed in shoes immediately after being removed. If regular trees are not on hand, pliable willow sticks work quite satisfactorily. Be sure not to cut sticks too long or the shoe will be drawn out of shape. Stuff the toes with tissue paper or cotton, but do not stuff them so they will be out of shape.

Shoe racks (Fig. 3) or bags (Fig. 4). Keep the shoes on some sort of rack or in bag. This protects them from dirt and keeps them always where they can be found. The bag may be made of cretonne, chintz or various heavy cottons. These may be fastened to the wall or closet door.

**CARE OF HATS**—Brush hat well with a soft brush after each wearing. Place where it will not collect dust. It may be kept in a hat box, a hat bag, covered with tissue paper or covered with a cloth.

Hats placed flat on the shelf or in a box will lose their shape. A hat stand or crushed tissue paper stuffed in the crown will help keep the hat in shape. Home-made pasteboard hat stands may be made that serve very well.

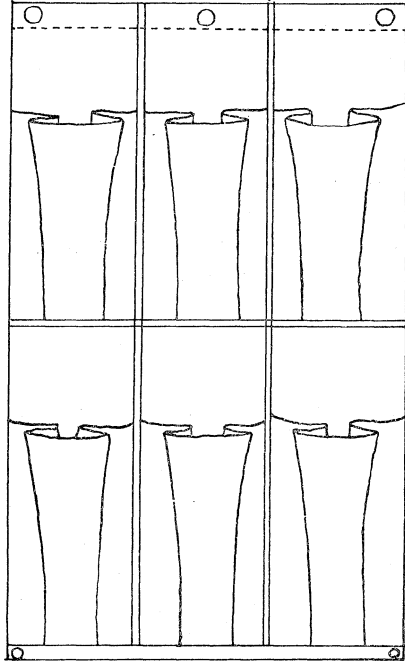


Fig. 4.—Shoe bag.

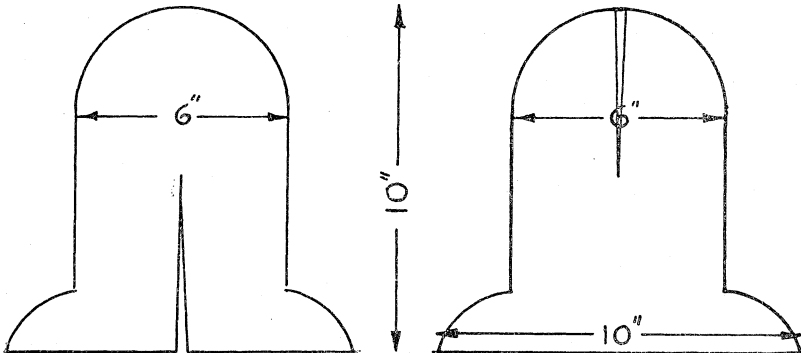


Fig. 5.—Homemade hat stand.

These are made from cardboard 10" high, 10" wide at the base and 6" across at the top. Cut two pieces in this manner (See illustration Fig. 5) and cover with cretonne or wall paper. Slit one piece from the center top half-way down and slit the other one from center of base half-way up. The diagram gives an idea of the shape of this stand. Very simple, yet attractive hat stands can be made in this way.

Linings frequently become badly soiled. They may sometimes be cleaned at the hair line with a good cleaning agent. If this fails, remove and either dry clean or wash. Press and sew back in hat again.

**CARE OF GLOVES**—Many of the gloves in use at the present time are of washable material and it is only necessary to launder them carefully to have fresh gloves for all occasions. After the glove has been thoroughly washed, smooth out carefully, stretching the fingers back into shape. Pigskin and doeskin gloves are often more satisfactorily washed on the hands. Then, pull them on again before the gloves are quite dry, shaping them to the hand. Remove and allow them to dry completely. Use good, recommended soap. When in shape they should be wrapped in tissue paper or a clean cloth and placed in a drawer or box. Rips at seams should be mended as soon as detected.

#### **OCCASIONAL CARE**

In addition to the daily care given to clothing there must be applied sooner or later other types of cleaning and freshening. These occasional processes are classed as laundering and dry cleaning.

#### **STAIN REMOVAL**

In either laundering or dry cleaning the housewife would naturally remove stains as a first step. Sometimes special treatment is necessary and in others merely water. Home treatment is effective for the removal of most stains if a few simple rules are known and followed. If possible the stain should be treated while it is still fresh because exposure to the air or to washing or heat may change the character of the stains so that an entirely different treatment will be required. Any rings formed by spotting will be removed when the entire garment is dipped into the cleaner.

A good source of very complete information for the removal of stains is to be found in "Stain Removal," F. B. No. 1474. However, a few simple instructions for some common stains are given below:



1. Tea or coffee stains on linen should be soaked in clear cold water before soaping.
2. Fresh blood stains should be washed in clear cool water. If dried they may be soaked and rubbed.
3. Many fruit juices may be removed by pouring on hot water, the teakettle held high. Allow water to pass through stain.
4. Fresh writing ink stains usually yield to cold clear water. Soaking in milk may help, changing the milk as it discolors. If this has no effect moisten spot with water, apply potassium permanganate with medicine dropper, rinse and apply oxalic acid, to remove brown spot. If stain is not completely gone, repeat. Test the effect on a sample of the fabric if colored.
5. Mildew (on white cotton or linen). For fresh stains use soap and water. For old stains soak in hot water and an equal amount of Javelle water for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour or until stains disappear. Javelle water may be purchased from the druggist or mixed by the housewife. Prepare as follows:  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb washing soda dissolved in 1 qt. cold water, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb ordinary bleaching powder (commonly called chloride of lime). Filter through a piece of muslin to remove sediment. Keep the liquid tightly bottled. Javelle water may be used on only white cotton and linen as it bleaches colors and rots wool, silk and some rayon. It is useful on a number of stains.
6. Black grease stains or road oil may be loosened by the application of lard. Wipe off when it becomes discolored and apply more. Wash in hot soapy water.
7. Grass stains may be dipped into alcohol. Javelle water may be used to take out remaining traces if the fabric is white. Some stains come out easily by washing in hot soapy water.
8. Diapers should be rinsed immediately and put to soak at once in cold water in a sanitary pail.
9. Colored clothes are not soaked unless proved of fast color.
10. Sponge fresh perspiration stains with alcohol or chloroform, and repeat if necessary. Old stains of this type in silk or wool should be sent to an experienced cleaner.

### DRY CLEANING AT HOME

Dry cleaning can be done quite satisfactorily at home if great care is taken. It should be borne in mind, however, that the experienced cleaner has both knowledge and equipment that the home cleaner does not have. An occasional sending to the professional cleaner to clean thoroughly and brighten garments would help the home cleaner in her more frequent cleanings.

In connection with the practice of home dry-cleaning the factor of safety cannot be too strongly emphasized because of the difficulties encountered if handling quantities of inflammable solvent. However, it is possible now to obtain non-inflammable naphtha at a very reasonable price.

All dry cleaning should be done out-of-doors and away from fire. Garments cleaned should be left out-of-doors until the solvent has entirely evaporated.

If using inflammable gasoline, when pouring from one container to another, keep edges in contact to avoid explosion. Also, it is wisest not to clean on a clear day. Do not rub garments.

Remove spots before immersing in cleaning liquid. Also, remove buttons, buckles and other ornaments. After the garment has been immersed, let stand for about 30 minutes. A good method is to use a suction cup and work the garment up and down and around for several minutes, exposing every part to the liquid. Do not wring, but squeeze the garment and rinse in a clean bath. If a dry cleaning soap has been used in the first cleaning, then two rinse baths should be used. Put on hanger and dry out-of-doors.

The rinse liquid may be strained and put away for future use.

### LAUNDERING

Great care should be taken in washing clothing. No matter how fadeproof the garment is supposed to be, care should be taken, because faded garments are never attractive. Shrinkage should also be considered. Never consider a garment well laundered unless the ironing is done flawlessly. Laundering is an art to be cultivated—it leads to better appearance.

**SOILED CLOTHES HAMPER**—A special receptacle for soiled clothes should be provided. A wicker clothes hamper is best since the air can circulate through it easily. It should be placed where fresh air can get to it. Even if there is a window in the clothes closet, it is not advisable to place the clothes bag or hamper with clean clothes in the clothes closet.

To **SOFTEN WATER**—Soft water is best to use for all laundering, but if it is not available, then some method of softening should be used.

Water may be “temporarily” or “permanently” hard. The temporarily hard contains bicarbonates of lime, magnesium or iron and may be softened by boiling. This causes a sediment to form on the bottom of the utensil containing the water. The permanently hard water contains other matter which must be overcome by chemicals. This is done by using soap, borax, or sal soda.

To soften with sal soda:

1 lb washing soda (or sal soda) dissolved in 1 quart of water. Two tablespoons of this is added to each gallon of water to wash clothes.

To soften with borax:

2 tablespoons of borax to 4 or 6 gallons of water.

**ORDER OF LAUNDERING.**

1. Assort clothes into groups as:
  - a. Color—white and colored
  - b. Degree of soil
  - c. Kinds of materials—cottons, silks, wools, and synthetics (such as Bembergs, rayons, celanese, etc.)
2. Remove all stains.
3. Mend.
4. Soak clothes.

**SOAKING**—The purpose of soaking clothes is to loosen dirt and save time, labor, and strain on the fabric during the washing process. After stains have been treated, the soiled places should be thoroughly soaped and the garment soaked in warm water.

Do not soak in hot water and do not soak colored garments that will fade.

**SOAPS**—“A good laundry soap should be free from excessive water and uncombined fat, should have a minimum of uncombined alkali, and should not contain an excess of rosin, salt, or insoluble material.

“The kind of fabrics to be washed should be considered in selecting the soap. The best soap should be chosen for use on silks and woolens, since they are the most sensitive to alkalis. A mild soap should also be used on cotton materials that show a tendency to fade and on all delicate fabrics. On the other hand, it is uneconomical to use an expensive soap on ordinary cotton fabrics where a medium-priced soap would be satisfactory, or on very heavy, dirty materials which would be cleaned easier with a stronger soap. Many women ignore this and are either wasteful of good soaps or spoil their more delicate garments with poor ones.”—*Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering*, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

**Washing**—Place soaked clothes by groups into hot water (130 degrees to 140 degrees). The cold water in the clothes will lower the temperature somewhat. Wash for 10 or 15 minutes according to amount and type of dirt. Wring out and apply second group of garments adding more soap and hot water to bring up temperature. When the water becomes dirty, drain from tub or washing machine and refill.

**SPECIALS**—Prepare clean water for the “specials.” It should not be hotter than 100 degrees, or just lukewarm. Use soft water here if at all possible. If not available, soften with borax. Use only a neutral soap. Work up a suds before immersing the garments.

Silk undergarments and stockings require daily washing to relieve the strain of constant wear and to remove soil and perspiration. Wash in a warm, mild soapsuds. It is best not to apply soap directly. Squeeze instead of rubbing. While hose are wet stretch foot from heel to toe and hang by toe.

Girdles and corselettes should be laundered frequently. Avoid using very hot water as this will cause the rubber to deteriorate.

**COLORED CLOTHING**—Wash colored clothing carefully, being sure the soap is mild so the color will not fade. Rinse well and hang in a shady place to dry, with the garment wrong side out.

**Cautions for Laundering Woolens, Silks, and Synthetics**

1. Do not wash in hot water.
2. Do not apply soap directly to material.
3. Rinse thoroughly.
4. Hang in shaded place.

5. Iron while still damp.
6. Do not iron on right side and use cloth over woolens.
7. Do not use hot iron—many synthetic materials are damaged by too much heat.

**BOILING**—Badly soiled cottons and cottons used next to or near the skin are boiled. This is done for its sanitary effect and to remove spots and stains, or to lighten a darkened condition due to previous careless laundering or unusually hard water. Many persons consider a wholesale boiling, such as our grandmothers practiced, very unnecessary with our modern machines in which such hot water can be used in the rubbing process.

Water for boiling is softened and “soaped” exactly as the water for the machine in the washing process. It should heat slowly, the garments being placed in the boiler as soon as it is filled. Some experienced home laundresses say that 1 to 6 tablespoons of kerosene added to each boiler of water will whiten the clothes.

**RINSING**—A thorough rinsing in plenty of clear water is necessary to good laundering. At least one hot rinse (as hot as the wash water) is positively necessary, but two hot rinses will amply repay the extra time and trouble because of the removal of the soap and loosened grease and soil. Use plenty of water and change frequently. A hot rinse water may later be used in the washer. A cool rinse should follow and then the blue water, in case bluing is desired.

**BLUING**—When bluing is used, it should be placed in the last rinse water.

There are many types of bluing on the market. For this reason definite directions as to amounts cannot be given. Read carefully the directions which accompany your bluing and follow exactly when preparing bluing water. All the soap should be thoroughly removed from clothes before they are placed in the bluing water since certain types of bluing, when placed in contact with soap, produce rust marks.

**STARCHING**—The amount of starch needed for garments depends on the kind and weight of the fabric. As a usual thing, a commercial starch is used and in that case, the directions on the package should be used. The starch often used by the home laundress is corn starch as it is much less expensive than rice or wheat starch. Professionals use a blend of starches.

To make starch two things are necessary:

1. The mixing of the starch with cold water.
2. The cooking of the mixture.

For thin starch use this proportion:

- 1 quart water.
- 1½ tablespoon corn starch.

It may be well mixed and cooked together until clear or ½ cup of the cold water may be mixed with the starch while the remainder is allowed to boil. Pour first mixture into boiling water, stirring constantly. If it does not become clear it may be boiled a few moments. Avoid scorching. Some add ½ teaspoon borax to increase the clearness of color, pliability and gloss. One-half teaspoon wax, paraffin, or fat (lard or left-over ends of white candles) is often added to make a smoother starch that will not stick to the iron.

**DRYING**—Clothes smell sweeter and have a better color if hung out-of-doors to dry. White linens and cottons may hang in the sun but colored materials should be placed in the shade as the sun fades colors, especially when wet. Freezing temperature often whitens materials but has these disadvantages:

1. It shrinks woolens.
2. It causes fading of color in any material.
3. There is a danger of tearing the garment where it has frozen to the line.
4. The clothes are so brittle that breaking may occur in folding.
5. The left-over moisture will thin the starch and the garments will not be crisp enough.

Clothes hung in a strong wind to dry will also lose their stiffness.

Woolen garments should be gently pulled into shape. Coats should be dried on hangers. Sweaters require measuring before wetting and pulling to those measurements when ready for drying. Lay on a clean pad until dry.

**SPRINKLING**—Use warm water for sprinkling as it penetrates more quickly. Hand sprinkling is not so even as that done by other means. There are sprinklers on the market but a clean whisk broom may be used. A pint bottle with a finely perforated lid or a fine mist sprayer attached to a hose are both effective.

Sprinkle, stretch into shape, turn right side out and roll tightly, folding in hems, ties, or trimmings. Press tightly and pile in a clean place where the moisture will not escape.

Dampen the clothes the night before ironing day unless the weather is very hot and moist. In that case mildew might grow on the clothes. If very fresh it may be washed off. Later, bleaches will be needed.

**IRONING**—In using either a hand iron or mangle some experience is necessary in order to produce a well smoothed surface. The iron should be heavy—at least 6 or 8 pounds. Press all lace or embroidery on wrong side, over a heavy pad to bring out pattern. Iron all areas dry before going on to others. Hems and bands require extra pressing as they are of two or more thicknesses. Irons should be smooth and clean and hot enough to “hiss” when touched with the moistened finger tip. If too hot only a little sound may be heard. Try iron on a piece of fabric for that purpose. Scorching injures materials.

Linens should be ironed on the wrong side. This gives an effect on the right side of the material as it was when new. They should be very damp. Cottons may withstand, without injury, a hotter iron than linens, and may be ironed on either the right or wrong side.

Silks and the rayons may be ironed with a warm or moderately hot iron on the wrong side, if outer garments. Woolens should have a warm iron which should never touch the material, but should be used with a pressing cloth of cotton between.

Ironing boards are discussed on page 3.

After the garments have been ironed, store in their respective places, giving better order to the house and keeping the clothing in better condition.

#### **SEASONAL CARE**

As a new season approaches the housewife plans the storing of the articles now in use and the bringing out of others for the following season. As springtime comes, she is especially anxious to feel safe about her woolens. Wool materials are expensive and require careful handling.

Moth proofing may help to save woolens. Thorough cleaning and thorough brushing are necessary before storage. It should be borne in mind that the article should be free from both moths and eggs before storing.

A satisfactory moth repellent is Naphthalene. This may be obtained in either flakes or balls. Sprinkle generously in the folds of the clean garments and place in an air tight chest or closet. If the closet shelves are the only available storage space, the articles should be treated as suggested and wrapped in strong paper. Heavy gummed paper may be obtained for sealing the edges. Keep woollens fluffy by packing them loosely. If the garments are needed occasionally during the warm season, so that storing seems unprofitable, air them in the sunshine and carefully brush them. Cedarized bags may be purchased at small cost and furnish quite a satisfactory place for storing winter garments.

Always repair all garments before putting away. In this way they will be ready for immediate use when needed.

Wool caps and hats should be brushed, cleaned, aired, and stuffed with tissue paper before storing. If upright standards can be arranged in a tight closet, the hat is more likely to have its original lines than if it is thrown into a shelf in a careless way.

Sweaters, wool hose, and wool gloves may be washed, shaped, and dried, and stored as directed for other woollens.

SHOES—Overshoes, galoshes, and rubbers should be thoroughly cleaned, aired, repaired, and stored in a dark cool closet. Shoes also need the same attention and if of delicate color or material should be wrapped in tissue paper and carefully put away. Shoe trees are often used to preserve the shape of the shoes.

SILK DRESSES—Heavy silk dresses may be sent to the cleaner or if washable may be laundered and pressed. Missing hooks and snaps should be replaced and other repairs made. Hang in a very dark closet or place in storage bags that fasten over the hangers and place at the back of a dark closet.

SUMMER DRESSES—The storage of summer clothing is simpler. Cotton and linen dresses are washed and laid away unstarched, unblued, and unironed. White materials may be ironed if the nature or size of the garment makes it store awkwardly if left unironed.

Light silk dresses are treated as the darker and heavier silks mentioned above.

BAGS AND KID GLOVES—Leather hand bags may be cleaned with some of the cleansers one purchases in bottles for shoe cleaning. A suitable cleaner for blonde shoes would do for a



bag of the same color, and so on. Rub the lining if it is fabric, with some good dry cleaner, remove all papers, etc., stuff with tissue paper, wrap in tissue paper, and place in a clean box or drawer.

Kid gloves should be sent to the cleaner or, if the cleaning is done at home, some non-inflammable cleaner should be used. Wrap the gloves in tissue paper and store in old glove boxes saved for this purpose.

#### **STORAGE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT**

For Illustrations and Storage Suggestions see Extension Circular No. 312—Storage for the Farm Home.

**CLOTHES CLOSETS**—In many homes the problem of storing clothing is a very serious one, since adequate storage space has not been provided. It is desirable to have a clothes closet for each member of the family and an additional closet or attic for seasonal storage. Since few homes provide this space, the available closets should be carefully studied to ascertain what improvements should be made to make the closet both convenient and roomy.

**RODS FOR HANGERS**—It is possible to hang many more garments in a limited space if a rod for hangers is placed from wall to wall. The rod may be made from an old broom handle, or if a longer one is desired, a piece of pipe cut the right size may be used. Rods may be placed either crosswise or lengthwise of the closet as space permits. Two rods running lengthwise make it possible for two people to share the closet space more advantageously since each has a rod for his own clothing. This is also desirable when one person is using the closet. One's best clothing may be hung on one rod while the second serves for those garments in daily use.

The rod should be well supported so that it cannot slip or fall when weight is placed upon it. The height of the rod should be determined by the height of the individual using it. Garments should not drag on the floor, but, on the other hand, the rod should not be so high that it requires jumping or stretching to reach it. One should be particularly careful to have children's rods properly placed for them.

Shelves should be provided for shoes, hats, and labeled boxes containing out-of-season clothes. A section of drawers may be placed under the shelves which can either hold undergarments and accessories or garments stored away between seasons. No article should be allowed to rest on the floor since it collects dust and is in the way when cleaning is to be done.

**GARMENT BAGS OR COVERS**  
—(Fig. 6) The best dresses and clothes that are not worn constantly should be kept in some sort of bag. This may be made of durable, closely woven cotton material, several inches more than twice the length of the garments, seamed up the sides and across the bottom, with a placket made down the center of one of the lengths, and fastened either with snaps or buttoned. A small hole is made at the top through which the hanger hooks may be passed.

Dresser drawers should be used as the storage space for toilet articles, dress accessories, and undergarments. Better order is maintained if boxes are fitted into the space and used for holding the various articles. Drawers are occasionally lined with material which has been provided with pockets in the sides. The pockets serve as receptacles for small articles.

Cedar chests, large painted boxes made perfectly tight to which cedar chips have been added, and closets lined with cedar are all excellent places to store wool and fur trimmed clothing. It is, of course, essential that the garments be clean and free from moths before being placed in this space. This should remain closed during the period of storage. In houses where available space is small the box or chest may be placed under a window or at the foot of the bed.

Trunks when not being used for travel make excellent storage chests for both clothing and bedding. If there is no storage room for the trunk, it may be placed in the bedroom with a chintz or cretonne cover over it.

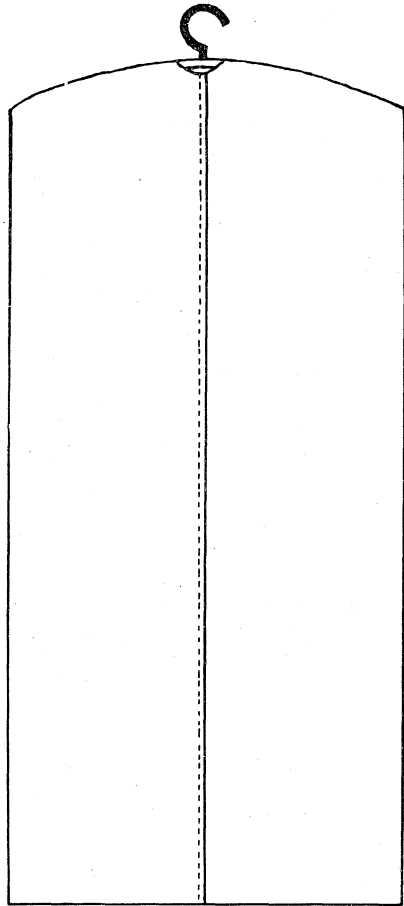


Fig. 6.—Simple type of garment bag, fastened down center hem with snaps.

The following equipment will simplify the storage problem:

**CLOSET**—Well arranged and properly equipped with the following:

1. Rod or rods for hangers
2. Hangers for every garment
3. Light colored walls
4. A means of ventilation
5. If electricity is in the house, a light should be provided in the closet
6. Place for shoes
7. Place for hats
8. Place for children's clothing low enough for them to reach.

**DRAWER SPACE**

1. Drawer lined with clean, white paper
2. Division of space by means of boxes or dividers
3. Where boxes are closed, they should be labeled
4. Articles that soil easily or are affected by light should be wrapped in tissue paper—if metallic, use black paper.

**STORAGE SPACE**

1. Boxes, chests, closets, or trunks for seasonal storage
2. Place where garments that are outgrown or discarded but are to be used later for another purpose may be stored until repairs can be made

**REPAIR OF CLOTHING**

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Keep your garments in good repair. Constant watch and repair of rips and tears as soon as they appear will often prevent grief later on.

Keep snaps, buttons, and hooks and eyes sewed on in their proper places. A pin never satisfactorily nor neatly takes the place of any one of these.

**STOCKING DARN (Fig. 7)** — Mend stockings before laundering. Darn as soon as thin places appear, or before hole gets too large.

Turn stocking right side out, if the hole is in the foot, place darning in left hand inside under hole. Trim off all ragged edges, being careful not to increase the size of the hole. With small running stitches, sew around the hole as close to the edge as possible, then draw the material up a little so the hole will not stretch while working on it. The darning thread should match the thread of the stocking in size and color. Use long eyed needle, not too coarse.

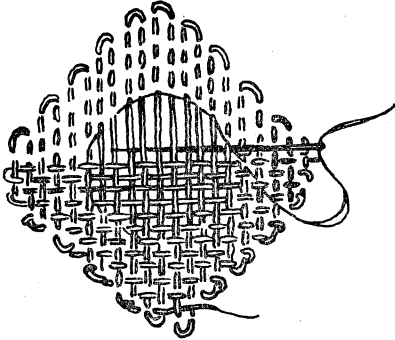


Fig. 7.—Stocking darn.

Start about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from one side of the hole, taking running stitches the same direction as the ribs in the stocking. Let the running stitches extend about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond the edge of the hole. Do not draw thread too tightly since it shrinks when laundered. When the hole is filled in with thread running in one direction, start putting thread across at right angles to the first ones, always alternating over and under the edge of the hole. We call this weaving, which is nothing more than going under one thread and over the next and so on. Be careful that your weaving does not make the darn heavier than the stocking itself.

**RUNS**—If the hose are expensive ones and in excellent condition it often pays to have runs repaired by special knitting machinery. Nearly all of the larger department stores provide this service. However, when hose show signs of wear elsewhere it is uneconomical to have them mended. To mend the run yourself, work from the right side and begin beyond the runner. Draw the edges together with the overhand stitch. One must be sure to catch the loop at each end and fasten it securely; otherwise another run will start. Care should be taken not to draw the stitches too tight.

A quicker way to mend a run is to machine stitch the edges of the run together in a narrow seam on the wrong side, catching the loops at either end and fastening the stitches by retracing the stitches. A tension looser than for ordinary stitching should be used.

Runners may also be mended with the chain stitch since it resembles knitting in appearance. Begin a little beyond the end of the runner and fill it in with chain stitches, catching up one of the dropped stitches with each stitch. Continue a short distance beyond the runner and fasten the thread securely.

**THE HEMMED PATCH (Fig. 8)**

—This is the strongest patch. It may be hemmed by hand or on the machine, but is much neater by hand. It is used mainly for patching undergarments, aprons, and sometimes outer garments.

Cut away the worn part, cutting on a thread each way of the material, making a square hole. Slash each corner in about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch, turn edge under evenly with the thread and crease, making the turned under edge a little over  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.

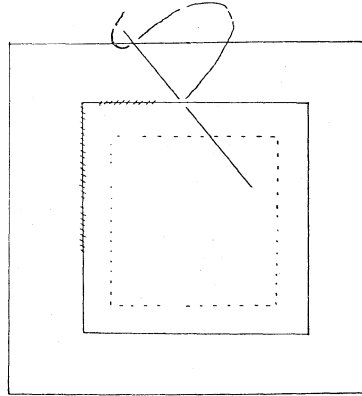
The patch should be large enough so that it will extend at least 1 inch beyond the edges of the hole, after the edge has been turned in. Place it back of the hole with the right side showing through, and match the pattern of the material. Pin securely.

Baste around the edge of the hole where it was turned under, being careful not to stretch the corners, then hem the edge down to the patch. Turn to the wrong side of the patch and crease down  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch all around the edge of the patch. Baste and hem down to the wrong side of the garment, then press the patched part.

**THE OVERHAND OR SET-IN PATCH**—This is used a great deal on outer garments as it shows less than any other form of patch. It is nothing less than art to do this well.

Prepare the hole in the garment by cutting away the worn portion to a square, always keeping the cut edge on a thread or yarn. Crease a seam around the hole, allowing  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch seam and being careful to crease exactly on thread. Clip diagonally outward from the corners of the hole to the corner of the creases. Then turn the edges to the wrong side, crease, and baste in position, if necessary. (See Fig. 9.)

Cut a piece of material for a patch large enough to cover the hole easily (it should extend at least one-half inch beyond



**Fig. 8.—Hemmed Patch**  
(wrong side)

the hole on each side). Place with the right side of the patch to the wrong side of the garment, matching the thread or design perfectly. Baste carefully in position. Next mark the outline of the hole on the patch by running a basting along the edge of the hole close to the folded edge.

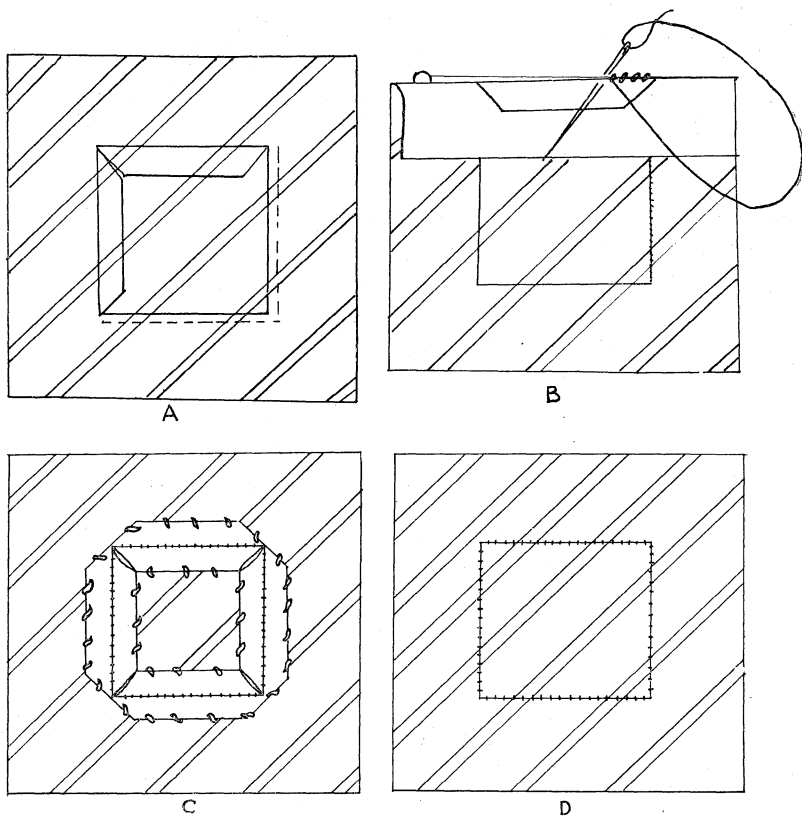


Fig. 9.—Overhand or Set-in Patch.

- A. Right side—placing and basting patch
- B. Method of holding patch and garment and stitch used
- C. Wrong side—finished patch
- D. Right side—finished patch

Remove from one side of the patch, the basting which holds the patch and garment together. Fold the garment back toward the right side and fold the patch back on itself on the basting line so that the right side of the garment rests on the right side of the patch, with the folded edges even and with design perfectly matched.

Overhand the edges together with small stitches, on the wrong side, starting in the center of one edge. Continue the overhanding around the four sides of the patch, removing the basting from one side at a time. By following this method small straight overhanding stitches will show but slightly on the right side of the garment. (See B, Fig. 9.) Use thread no coarser than No. 80 on average weight materials, and No. 100 is better on finer ones.

When all four sides are done, crease the *seams open flat* and trim off the patch to within one-quarter inch of the seam. Clip off a triangular piece of cloth from each corner of the patch, being careful not to cut into the stitches at the corner. Then overcast all the edges and press them open. (See D, Fig. 9.)

**WOOL DARNING (Fig. 10)**—It is also an art to be able to darn a cut or tear in a garment so that it is invisible.

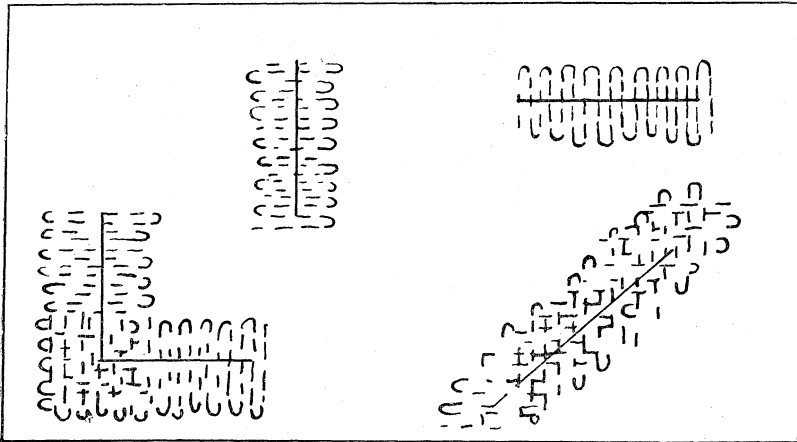


Fig. 10.—Wool darn.

Darn from the right side, picking up only about one thread of cloth with the needle, thus keeping most of the darning thread on the wrong side. Very little should show on the right side. Always have your darning thread run along with the thread of the cloth, even if the slit is diagonal. Keep edges of slit together when darning. Use single thread or raveling as it shows less than when doubled. If ravelings of the material are used, the darn can be made so that it will not show. Do not draw the darning too tight or it will give a drawn appearance. Press on the wrong side when finished.

A patch of light weight material of same color as cloth to be darned may be placed on wrong side of darn if extra strength is needed in the garment. Sew into place around the edge with the same stitch used in darning, making a long stitch on the wrong side and short one on the right side and darn through this.

**COAT LININGS**—Sleeve linings that are worn thin or ragged can have a hemmed patch of any similar material because it does not show. When the lining is worn around the collar a shaped hemmed patch of self-material can be slip stitched on at the neck line and catch stitched to the garment around the other edges. Such repairs as these frequently provide an additional season's wear. Ripped coat linings should be slip stitched to the coat. In order to make it inconspicuous turn back the edge  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and carry the thread alternately through the lining fold and the garment. Press flat.

**COAT BUTTONS**—Coat buttons are ordinarily large and cut the thread. They should be sewed on with heavy linen thread and a strong shank provided. A small button should be placed on the under side both to help protect the material and cover the ugly irregular stitches.

**SWEATERS**—Broken threads may be caught and crocheted in again but if there is a hole it will be necessary to match the yarn and darn the hole. If the sweater yarn is fine the mending yarn may have to be untwisted and fewer yarns used. A blunt crewel needle is necessary to interlace the threads and fill in the hole. Catch the mending yarn into the loose loops at the edges of the hole but do not pull the garment out of shape. It is helpful to baste a piece of stiff paper to the back to serve as a foundation to darn over. Boys' play sweaters worn thin at the elbow may be darned and further reinforced by stitching or an oval shaped patch of soft leather. An old kid glove may be used.

**RAINCOATS**—Raincoats and rubbers may be repaired with adhesive tape.

**GLOVES**—To repair rips in seams use the overhand or back stitch, depending on the type of seam finish the glove has. The overhand stitch is made by placing right sides together and the ends and finished edges even. Hold the glove between the thumb and forefinger and with the needle pointed toward you take very shallow stitches which catch both of the edges to be joined. The stitches should be close together and of uniform depth. Use cotton rather than silk thread because it is less likely to cut the leather.