

HOW TO SORT LAUNDRY

Sorting is one of the most important steps in laundering. While you sort, you should:

1. Look for spots and stains and treat them before washing.
2. Close zippers, hooks, buttons, etc. to prevent snagging.
3. Remove all items from pockets.
4. Tie sashes and belts loosely to prevent tangling.
5. Look for tears, rips, etc. and repair them before washing.
6. Sort clothes into loads of the correct size for the washer.
7. Identify special-care or hand-washable items and keep them separate, including noncolorfast items.

Sorting is done by

COLOR

- White, or white background with pastel figures
- Solid or print pastels
- Medium and bright colors
- Dark colors
- Colorfastness

Colorfast means the fabric maintains or keeps its color without fading or bleeding (running) onto other fabrics.

Noncolorfast means the colors in the fabric may fade or bleed onto other fabrics when wet.

TYPE AND WEIGHT OF FABRIC

- Loosely woven, knitted, and sheers
- Lint producing: towels, sheets, terry cloth, etc.
- Tightly woven, heavy fabrics

KIND AND AMOUNT OF SOIL

- Heavily soiled items should be washed separately
- Polyesters pick up oily stains and should not be washed with items which are soiled with oily or greasy stains.

SIZE

Mix large and small items in each load for better cleaning and movement of items in the washer.

THE LAUNDRY PROCESS

The steps of the laundry process are as follows

1. Sort the clothing
This includes understanding care labels and consumer information
2. Pretreat stains and heavily soiled areas
Fresh stains are easier to remove than old stains
3. Mend or repair
Mending articles before washing to keep torn area from getting larger
4. Operate the washing machine
 - a. Select the wash water temperature
 - Hot water sets stains, shrinks clothes, fades colors, costs more
 - Warm water causes little damage to clothing.
 - Cold water protects fabrics, prevents shrinkage, prevents fading, allows stains to remove easily, works best with detergents, costs less.
 - b. Select the rinse water temperature
 - Warm water reactivates the detergent and causes the clothing not to rinse thoroughly.
 - Cold water allows the rinse cycle to work the best.
 - c. Select the water level and agitation cycle.
 - Use the regular setting for medium and heavy weight fabrics.
 - Use the delicate setting for lightweight fabrics or delicate items.
 - d. Select laundry products
 - Chlorine (liquid) bleach is mainly used on white cotton fabrics
 - Powdered bleach can be used safely on other fabrics.
 - Chlorine (liquid) bleach should be added to the wash water and mixed thoroughly before the clothes are in the washer. The bleach should not be poured directly on the clothing.
 - Always use the amount of detergent recommended on the box or less—too much detergent is difficult to rinse out and makes the clothing sticky and dull in color.
 - Don't use extra detergent for extra-dirty clothes—wash them twice instead.
5. Handle fabrics carefully to reduce the need for ironing
 - Using fabric softeners or conditioners helps to eliminate wrinkling.
 - Take the clothes out of the dryer immediately when dry, while they are still warm; fold or hang.
6. Operating the dryer
 - a. Selecting the temperature
 - High heat damages clothing

- Medium heat does less damage than high heat
 - Low heat is least damaging but takes longer to dry clothing
- b. Selecting the time
- Special care and delicate items only need about 10 to 15 minutes of drying time on a low temperature.
 - An average load of clothing requires about 25 to 30 minutes of drying time
 - Heavier items, such as towels and jeans, require a longer drying time
7. Ironing or pressing
- If you aren't sure what temperature to use, start with a lower temperature and increase it until the wrinkles are out.
 - Moisture or steam helps remove wrinkles.

Laundry Steps

1 Sort

2 Repair

3 Pretreat

4 Wash

5 Care

6 Dry

7 Iron