

SHOULD YOU PRE WASH FABRICS BEFORE SEWING?



Please read our T & C's – www.rosamaycrafts.com

DISCLAIMER: Please note this is my very own guideline, there are so many guides and tips, use which one you feel works for you.

YES. YES. YES. Several reasons that I have come across, there are more.

Here are a few reasons as to why you should wash your fabrics and tips.

1. So many people have touched the fabric; it has travelled the world either by ship, plane or car. Can you imagine what it has picked up along its wonderful journey. Just like you wash your newly purchased outfits/products, the same applies to fabrics.
2. Most Fabrics shrink after their first wash. I tend to wash all my fabrics. Imagine you have made a cushion cover and wash it afterwards and you wonder why it does not fit your cushion anymore!
3. Any excess colour/dye will run and will mix with other outfits/products. You do not want to mix this with your other washing.
4. Some fabrics have a starch in it to make it stiff, by washing it, it will soften it.
5. Wash away any chemicals that have been put on the fabric to stop mildew.
6. Some say wash your fabrics as you buy them, others say wash before you start using them. If you are like me, I buy a lot of fabric and some will sit in my cupboard for a few months and I therefore only wash my fabrics as and when I need them. Find the way that is easier and suits you.
6. Leather, suede, fake fur must be taken to a professional cleaner.

Basic Tips for Pre-washing Fabric

1. All fabrics have their own washing, drying and ironing instructions. If you do not know, almost ask the person who you are purchasing the fabric from, or if you are a member of the group, ask in the group.
2. Depending on how much you have purchased and what type of fabric it is, zig zag the edges, this will stop the fraying. I personally do not zig zag any fabric, unless it is woven fabric, what I do is I place the fabric in an old pillow case,(If you are machine washing), close it up tightly with an elastic band or string and then wash.
3. As you will see on outfits or home décor you may buy, tags telling on how to wash, dry etc., your fabric. Some fabrics must be hand washed, machine washed or dry cleaned.

4. BASIC GUIDELINE – HOW TO WASH CERTAIN TYPES OF FABRICS

Please note that most cotton type fabrics crease or wrinkle a lot. Once washing is finished, take the fabric out, give it a good shake and then tumble dry. Again once the drying is finished, take the fabric out of the machine and fold immediately if not going to use the fabric straight away

Natural fibre fabrics.

- Cotton fabric does shrink and therefore must be washed. It is the easiest fabric to wash in the washing machine.
- Voile can be hand washed or in your machine on a hand wash/gentle cycle.
- Flannel is best washed in hot water and dried with a hot dryer as it one of the cotton fabrics that shrink a lot.
- Jersey knit is also best washed in hot water wash, but only tumble dry for a short while, just to remove the wrinkles.
- Linen also loves to be machine washed and tumble dried.
- Voile is best hand washed. It is a delicate fabric and can tear or split.

- Satin fabric can crinkle very easily, therefore a very gentle hand wash is highly recommended or dry clean. I use a wash tub, soak the fabric in luke warm water and a gentle detergent for few minutes and then I lift the fabric in and out of the water. DO NOT TWIST, SCRUNCH OR GIVE IT A VIGOROUS HAND WASH. Also do not tumble dry, but air dry.

- Silk is a soft, delicate, smooth and light weight fabric

You can either have your silk garments or home furnishings dry cleaned or hand washed. If hand washing, follow these instructions: -

Gentle hand wash, using your fingers in cold water in a sink or basin using a mild detergent that is chlorine/bleach free and do not use fabric softener.

Only air dry your silk items. Do not place in the sun or in a dryer

Synthetic/Man Made fabrics

It has been said that these fabrics do not shrink and therefore do not need to be prewashed. I tend to prewash all my fabrics.

With soft and delicate fabrics like chiffon, sequined fabric, I would only hand wash and air dry .

Organza fabric, when washed by machine will fray, therefore place in a pillow case or zig-zag the raw edges. Organza can be machine washed on a gentle wash and tumble dry on a low heat.

Taffeta – I wash the same way as I wash Satin.

Toille/Tulle/Netting – Either gently hand wash and air dry or place in a pillow case and wash on a gentle and cold cycle.

Once the washing and drying are done, remember that certain fabrics, like cotton and linen, will need some ironing. It is very difficult to place a pattern and cut on wrinkled fabric, plus if you iron your fabric once you have cut, you will see it is a slightly different shape to your pattern piece.



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Washing symbols for clothes explained –

PLEASE NOTE THIS ARTICLE IS FROM www.which.co.uk.

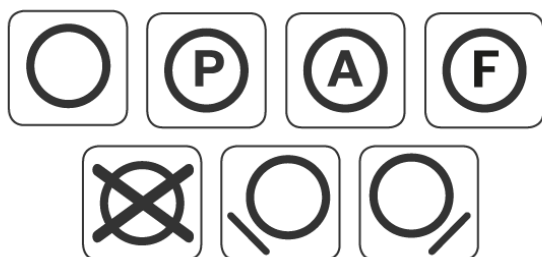
Read all about it:- <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/washing-machines/article/washing-symbols-explained>

Bleaching symbols



- A triangle means you can safely use a cold, dilute solution of bleach.
- If the triangle has two stripes, only a non-chlorine, colour-safe bleach should be used.
- If the triangle has a cross over it, the item can't be bleached.

Dry cleaning symbols



Some clothes can – or must – be dry cleaned.

- A circle means the garment is suitable for dry cleaning.
- If there's a letter inside the circle, it's to tell the dry cleaner which chemical wash and method to use.
- If the circle has a cross over it, the item shouldn't be dry cleaned.
- A line on the bottom left of the circle means short cycle.
- A line to the bottom right is for low heat. Clothes manufacturers tend to give good cleaning advice.

So, even if you suspect they're being over cautious, it's best to follow what they say.

Drying symbols



Drying your clothes can be where it all goes wrong and you either end up stretching your favourite wool jumper or shrinking your best top. In contrast to tumble drying, natural drying symbols can be harder to interpret. Here's what the natural drying symbols actually mean:

- If the square has one drooping line, this means you can hang your clothes to dry on a washing line outside.
- If the square has three vertical lines in it, this means drip dry your clothes on a rack indoors.
- If the square has one horizontal line, this means dry the garment flat to keep its shape.

Handwash symbols



If the tub contains a handwash program, wash the item by hand at 40°C or lower. Many washing machines have a handwash program. This is for delicate garments such as cashmere or silk, and cleans more gently than the normal setting to prevent clothes snagging or shrinking.

Ironing symbols



The dots on ironing symbols correspond to the dots on an iron's temperature settings: the more dots there are, the more heat can be applied.

- If the iron symbol doesn't have any dots, the garment can be ironed at any temperature.
- Three dots are for linen and cotton.
- Two dots are for synthetics.
- One dot is for the most delicate items such as woollens and silk.
- If the iron symbol has a cross through it, that garment is not suitable to be ironed.
- If the symbol has two or three lines protruding from the bottom of the iron with a cross over it, this means you must dry iron and not steam iron.

Synthetics and cottons symbols



The bars underneath the tub icon refer to rinsing and spinning. Such items shouldn't be wrung by hand.

- If there are no bars, the garment can be spun and rinsed as normal.
- One bar indicates that the spin speed should be reduced.
- Two bars means the clothes need a mild wash action, but can be spun and rinsed normally.
- If there's a cross through the tub, that item should not be washed and will probably need to be dry cleaned.

Washing temperatures symbols



If your clothes are machine washable then you'll see this tub icon on the label. The number within the tub icon shows the maximum temperature that item of clothing can be washed at. This can range from 30°C to 95°C. Many claim that washing at 30°C instead of 40°C is the key to saving money and energy. For this reason you might opt for a lower temperature to the label guide. But while it may conserve energy and save on running costs, 30°C doesn't

always remove tougher stains such as oil and grease.

Tumble drying symbols

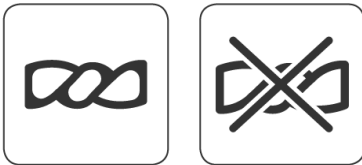


Getting tumble drying right is easy if you use the correct temperature.

- A circle inside a square means you can tumble dry the garment.
- The dots indicate temperature – one for low heat, two for slightly higher heat, and three for high heat.
- A cross over the symbol means you shouldn't tumble dry the garment.

Some clothes may appear similar but have different labels – they're most likely made from different fibres or blends. Some fibres or blends can change size or become 'furred' by tumble drying. An item that's suitable for tumble drying will have been treated to protect against these effects.

Wringing symbols



Wringing out your clothes is possibly the most common mistake made during hand washing or drying clothes without a dryer. Twisting the fabric by hand can seriously damage your favourite item of clothing. If you're not sure whether to wring out the excess water by hand, look out for the symbols above on your clothing label:

- Symbol on the left - go ahead and wring your clothes with confidence.
- Symbol on the right with a cross through it - do not attempt to wring your clothes.

Read more: <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/washing-machines/article/washing-symbols-explained>