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SPHM
HOSPITALITY

SPHM – HK LAUNDRY S.O.P



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E.O Guest Transaction S.O.P

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OBJECTIVES:

1. To establish minimum basic service quality standards which all standard hotels must offer to the guests.
2. To establish varying degrees of laundry/valet services to be provided by every standard hotels.

POLICY:

Standard hotels will provide laundry/valet service.

STANDARDS:

1. SERVICE:

- (a) Return all dry cleaned items to the guest thoroughly cleaned, free from wrinkles, and free from odor of chemicals.
- (b) Items for pressing only will be returned to the guest free from wrinkles.
- (c) Replace any buttons broken while being washed or dry cleaned, replace missing buttons.
- (d) Notify guest of all stains which could not be removed, and do not charge guest if results of cleaning were unsatisfactory.

NOTE: If daily service, one (1) hour pressing, overnight laundry/valet services, and/or timeliness standards cannot be provided in house due to lack of space for equipment, and/or outside contract services are not available in the city where the hotel is located, these services can be waived in accordance with.

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6 Sorting Steps to Worry Free Laundry

Sorting is the easiest part of washing clothes, right? Wrong. Sorting is the most difficult and time consuming part of laundry. If done incorrectly sorting ruins clothes and can damage machines. When done properly sorting saves invaluable time, energy, and money. There are 6 main things to look for when sorting laundry. Actually placing the clothing in the proper pile is only one of them.

1. Check clothing tags.

Read the tags thoroughly to determine how the clothes should be washed dried and ironed. Most items will have mainly normal washing instructions. You might be surprised though that you have items that are meant to be hand washed or not dried in the drier. Set these items aside in their own “Special Care” pile.

2. Turn clothing right side out.

Make sure none of the legs of your pants, or arms of your shirts are stuck in the garment improperly. If you are washing overalls, take the time now to clasp the latches of the overalls to their proper buttons, keeping them from getting broken, stretched or ripped. If you had any clothing tags that instructed you to wash the clothing inside out, make sure you remembered to do so.

3. Check all pockets.

It's best to have a bowl nearby to hold the contents of your pockets. Failing to check pockets can leave some nasty surprises. In my family we've accidentally washed lipstick, Dad's cell phone, and the original copy of my marriage license. I still don't know how *that* one got into a pocket. Checking pockets can be a good

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way to make some extra money. My advice is to keep what you find. Family members will soon start cleaning out their own pockets.

4. Check for sewing repairs.

Make sure there aren't any loose threads, rips, button repairs, or other sewing repairs. If you find any, repair them before you wash the clothes. Washing them with problems will only make the problems bigger.

5. Check for stains.

They will need to be pretreated or soaked before washing and drying. If you dry a stain, you'll most likely have a stain for life.

6. Sort the clothing.

There are many different methods to sorting. Some people sort by color. Others sort by fabric type. There are some adventurous souls who actually never sort clothing. Your sorting method will likely be determined by the size of your family and contents of your wardrobes. Here are some of the sorting categories that may demand special attention.

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Whites- Whites go separate because we want them to stay white. One red sock that isn't colorfast can turn an entire white load pink. More often than not whites need a warmer water temperature than other clothing to ensure proper cleaning.

Reds and or Bright Colors- Colorfast pinks, purples, reds, and oranges can be mixed together to make a full load.

Warning, red clothing is notorious for losing its color and bleeding onto other fabrics. When in doubt wash reds separately. Other bright colors can fade or lose their color onto other lighter clothing.

Towels- Towels are lint producers. The lint they give off sticks to other types of clothing. You can wash towels with blankets, sheets, and robes as long as everything is colorfast.

Specialty Items- These are things that have to be washed separately, are not colorfast, can't be dried, or have otherwise special instructions that keep them separate.

Some people like to sort everything else into its color category to get a nice mix of small and large items for each load. For example, with a large family you may end up with a blue load, green load, khaki load, black load, etc. If your items are colorfast, (most clothing will be) you can combine colors together.

This is not by any means the only way to sort clothing. I know of families who sort clothing by the owner to make it easier to put away. They pull out problem and specialty items, but on the whole one child's green shirt, khaki pants, blue

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shorts, etc are all colorfast and can be washed together. This can be a great time-saving method for families that seem to have all of their clean laundry piled in one place. As long as your method gets your clothes clean and keeps them intact, it's best to develop a system that fits your family.

Follow these six steps at the beginning of a laundry session and you avoid most of the common pitfalls that can ruin your clothing.

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A full load of laundry will depend on the capacity or size of your washing machine. Smaller capacity top loaders may accommodate only 6 lbs of dirty clothing to be full. Medium capacity top loading washing machines can usually tolerate 7-8 lbs. The biggest large capacity top loaders will do well with as much as 12-15 lbs. For heavy duty see into the capacity and ensure not over load. Front loading washing machines can hold as much as 18 lbs of clothing. So how many items are in a lb. of clothing? To find out how much your loads weigh, you can weigh yourself holding a load of dirty clothing, and subtract it from your weight without the dirty load. While weight varies with type of material, these are some general guidelines.

- Twin Sized Quilt-3-5 lbs.
- Complete Child Outfit-1-3 lbs.
- Complete Adult Outfit-3-5 lbs.

Clothing Size

In addition to the weight restrictions on our machines, there are also size restrictions.

The best load of laundry is one that mixes items of varying sizes. This allows clothing to move much more fluidly in the washing machine and keeps the clothing fully washed, fully rinsed, and undamaged. Although a full or queen sized quilt may weigh only 7 lbs., it could still be too big for your top loading washing machine. Front loaders are much more able to tolerate large items and still get them clean and keep them protected. Check your manufacturer's instructions to see specific information for your machine.

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1. Shrunken Sweaters.

It may seem hopeless, but there is a tiny glimmer of a chance that you can still wear that sweater. It's worth a try to attempt to reshape a wet sweater to its original size. Add 2-3 tablespoonfuls of hair conditioner to a bucket of room temperature water. Put the sweater in the bucket to soak for about 5 minutes. Lay the sweater on a clean dry towel and slowly and gently try to stretch the fibers and reshape the garment before allowing it to dry on the towel.

2. Dried Stains.

Once a stain has been dried, it's very hard to remove, but it is possible. Try repeating the steps for the individual stain. More than likely you'll need to soak the stain, or use a more aggressive stain remover. On white clothes, try using lemon juice and placing the garment in the sun.

Both the lemon juice and the sun will work as bleaching agents. Be sure to rinse the clothing thoroughly before rewashing.

3. Dingy Whites.

White fabrics can become yellowed or grayed and dingy. For gray and dingy whites try the triple soak. Soak the whites first in a solution of a bucketful of water and 2 tablespoons of liquid dish soap. Next rinse out the whites and soak in a solution of 2 tablespoons of ammonia and a bucketful of water. Next, rinse out the whites, and soak in a bucket of warm water and 2 tablespoons of vinegar. Rinse thoroughly and dry. This soaking method will leave your whites bright and clean.

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General Stain Removal

Stains may seem like the enemy, but rest assured there are some very basic strategies that can give you the edge on even the toughest stains. No matter what kind of stain you are dealing with, some very specific rules apply to what you do.

Stain Types

There are some specific categories of stains that need different types of treatment. Depending on what category your stains fall into, you may need to use different water temperatures, stain removers, and removal methods to make sure that every trace of the stain is removed.

Protein Based Stains

These stains include blood, dairy products, body soils, baby formula, mud, eggs, and baby food.

Protein based stains will usually have some soiled areas that will need to be cleaned off with a spoon before attempting to treat them. Remember to avoid using hot water on these stains. Heat sets protein stains in fabric. Use cool water for washing and rinsing. Dried and old protein stains may need several rounds of treatment before they will be fully gone.

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Dye Based Stains

Dye based stains include some inks, fruit, grass, Koolaid, and mustard. The trouble with dye based stains is in their strength and how rapidly they stain. To remove them, you'll probably need to soak the stained area repeatedly if the stain has set. If you get to a dye stain quickly enough, it can be removed with water, if not you may need repeated treatments. Unlike protein based stains, dye stains are best removed with hot water.

Tannin Based Stains

Tannin based stains include tea, coffee, soft drinks, fruit juice, and wine. Tannin stains are actually one of the easiest fresh stains to remove. Simply running a stained area under cold water and then washing in a regular cycle with the hottest water safe for your fabric will remove most stains. Set in tannin based stains are not as easy to get rid of. These stains will frequently need more thorough treatment, but be sure to avoid bar soaps. Tannin stains will be enhanced and made permanent if soap is used.

Oil-Based Stains

Oil based stains include margarine, butter, makeup, oil, mayonnaise, deodorant, gasoline, and ring around the collar and cuff stains. The problem with oil stains is that they tend to reappear just when you think you've seen the last of them. Oils grab onto the fibers in your clothing and they don't like to let go. Oil stains also darken over time. To remove oil stains the key is letting a detergent soak into the stained area, and washing in the hottest water safe for the fabric. Double check that the stain has been removed before you place clothing in the dryer, and treat it again if you're in doubt.

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Combination Based Stains

Combination based stains include, crayons, gum, lipstick, chocolate, gravy, tomato based stains, and bbq sauce. There are tons of combination based stains. These stains take the better of two other groups and mix them together to make it hard for you to treat them. Usually the combination is dye or color and oil. Start by removing the oily part of the stain first and then remove the dye or color portion.

Tools For Stain Removal

After you know what type of stain you have, it's important to use the right stain removers for the job. The best stain removers will make your job much easier and leave your clothes looking like they did before your stain emergency. If you get to a stain quickly, little more than water may be required. If a stain is set, you may need to use other stain removers to help the process.

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Laundry Detergent:

Laundry detergents come in all shapes and scents these days. Be sure that you find one that fits the needs of your family and your machine. Skin sensitivities, machine manuals, and scent preferences will probably make a big difference in which brand you ultimately buy, but the majority of brands on the market do a fantastic job at washing your clothing.

Stain Removers:

No matter how careful we are, stains happen. What's worse, is that they make no distinction between nice clothes and play clothes. Everything is subject to stains. When stains happen, it's important to use the right stain remover or removal method to protect your clothing. Be sure to read the directions on your stain remover to know if the garment will need to be washed right away.

Bleach:

Up until recently there wasn't much choice for a consumer looking for bleach. All brands were relatively alike. No, however, there are scented bleaches, and even new thicker formulas designed to not spill or splash as much. There are even formulas that can be poured directly on bleachable fabrics. In addition to this chlorine bleach achievements, there are many colorsafe bleaches on the market for consumers to choose from. These bleaches work to remove stains, while still brightening colors.

Other Laundry Additives:

There are many laundry additives on the market. They range from brighteners, to whiteners. Fabric softener, dryer sheets, boosters, and water softeners are just a few of the products you'll find waiting in the laundry aisle. If you have a

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laundry problem, chances are, there's an additive that can help. Be sure to read directions carefully on additives, and test for colorfastness in a hidden spot to be sure it's going to achieve the results you want.

Laundry Additives

Laundry Sink or Bucket:

Having a sink close in or near your laundry room is wonderful. It gives you the ability to treat stains, clean up spills, and clean the laundry room much more easily. If you don't have a laundry sink, investing in a new large bucket might be a great idea. This laundry bucket is handy for time when stained items might need to soak.

Drying Rack:

Chances are you have a few items in your closet that require special drying care. You may not have realized it when you bought them, but one trip through the dryer will turn them into clothes that even a fashion doll would have a hard time fitting into. A collapsible drying rack can hide out of sight until you need it.

Hampers and Baskets:

Hampers and baskets are necessary for storing, sorting, and carrying loads of laundry. The number of hampers and baskets you will need will depend on the makeup of your household. Some people prefer to have a hamper in each bedroom and family bathroom. Others prefer simple laundry baskets in these rooms, with hampers located in the laundry room. Decide how you need these items to be setup to best help your family.

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Washer and Dryer:

Today's washers and dryers are amazingly efficient and effective at cleaning our clothing while protecting it. The newest features on these machines seem to change every month, and while we don't yet have a machine that will retrieve, sort, wash, dry, iron, fold, and put away without any human contact, we can all hope that we're getting closer to developing such a dream machine. Choose good appliances and be sure to maintain them properly.

Iron and Ironing Board:

For many people the iron and ironing board may seem outdated tools for laundry. And while it's true that you can remove most wrinkles in the dryer now, there's still nothing like neatly pressed clothing to present a put together look. Find a spot in your laundry room for a fold or pull out ironing board, and choose a good iron with a steam function. These two tools may not be used daily, but they definitely add polish to our laundry.

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Ironing clothes can be a tricky job. With so many fabric types, pleats, tucks, seams, etc. getting the wrinkles out can give even the best housekeeper a headache. Find out the top 7 ironing mistakes we make and how to avoid them. Some of them begin before we ever turn on our iron.

1. Letting clothes over-dry.

Clothes are very difficult to iron when they are fully dry or over dried in the dryer. Over-dried clothes can be very difficult to reshape. Try to remove clothes when they are still slightly damp. If you line dry your clothes, bring them inside to iron when they are not quite dry.

2. Overfilling the dryer.

It would seem like stuffing as many clothes as can fit into a dryer would save us time, but more than likely it will only lengthen the time you spend caring for your clothing.

An average dryer should be only 1/2 full in order to allow freedom for all clothing to move. If too many articles of clothing are in the dryer, it will create monster wrinkles, and make your ironing much more difficult.

3. Forgetting to shake and smoothed.

When clothing is removed from the dryer, it frequently sits in a basket waiting to be ironed. Take a few minutes and shake out your clothing. Reshape garments, and smooth out seams and pleats. Even if clothing still needs to be ironed, it will be a much smoother process.

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4. Not using the sprayer.

Many irons today come with a built in sprayer to dampen clothes during ironing. If yours doesn't have one, purchase a new inexpensive empty spray bottle to use. Dampen the clothing when you are ready to begin ironing. Wrinkles will fall out of the clothing as you iron. If you don't use the sprayer to soften up the clothing, ironing is much more difficult and for some garments, impossible.

5. Using Hard Water.

Tap water may be okay to use in your iron, depending on what type of water you have. People with hard water risk damaging their iron. Read the instructions for your iron, and if in doubt, use distilled water in your iron.

6. Improper use of starches and seizers.

Starches and seizers are a great tool when ironing, but they must be used properly. Spray these products as you iron, but allow them to actually penetrate into the garment before ironing over them. Allowing just a few seconds for the clothing to soak up the starch or seizer, will keep your iron's soleplate from becoming built-up with product residue.

7. Ironing heavyweight fabrics first.

If you have a large pile of ironing to do, try to iron your lightest silk, synthetic, and delicate fabrics first. These need to be ironed on low temperatures. Once the iron heats up, and you've ironed your lightweights, you can move on to the wools, cottons, linens, etc.

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We love bright bold colors in our clothing. Color is beautiful, until it fades. A bright red shirt that you love can quickly turn into a piece of clothing you detest when it fades to a washed out pink.

1. Read the Care Label

It takes a few seconds, but reading the care labels may save a lot of heartache when your clothes come out of the wash. Check for instructions that may say to wash only in cold, or with like colors. Don't forget to check for drying instructions as well. The label may indicate that the clothing needs to be dried on low, or drip dried.

2. Wash Dark Colors Together

Sorting clothes is a great opportunity to check the care label, and place your clothing in the correct pile. Anyone who has ever washed one red sock with an entire load of whites, knows the pain that can happen when colors fade away. To prevent dark colors from fading, keep like colors together.

3. Turn Clothes Inside Out

Some of the wear and tear that happens on your clothing can be prevented by turning your clothing inside out before washing and drying. Washing and drying clothing is rough on the outside of your clothing. Turning garments inside out will reduce pilling which dulls the look of the fabric. Don't forget to turn clothing inside out when you hang clothes outside to dry. While the sun is an excellent and efficient drying tool, it will zap the color right out of your clothing.

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4. Don't Stuff the Washer

Stuffing the washer is tempting. It will help us save time, right? Well, actually stuffing the washer can cost us quite a bit. It makes the machine work harder and it is tougher on our clothes. Clothing can't come clean or have soap evenly deposited when it is packed into a washing machine. Similarly clothing takes a lot longer to dry when a dryer is stuffed with wet cloths. Clothes need to move freely.

5. Wash in Cold

Colors in cold. This was the unofficial motto of my home growing up. If there is one thing I learned about laundry from my mother, it is that colors get washed in cold. If you want to prevent fading from your colored clothing, wash them in cold water. Detergents have come a long way in the last several years, and most do as well in cold water as the do in hot or warm.

6. Don't Over Dry

It's easy to let our clothing over. While this is bad for all of our laundry, it is particularly bad for our bright and dark colors. Over drying will cause your colors to fade. Set a timer and don't forget about your clothes. Clothes should be slightly damp when they are pulled from the dryer.

7. Add Vinegar

Vinegar doesn't have the most pleasant smell, but adding a cup to your washing machine will not only give you a natural fabric softener, but also help prevent colors from fading. The good news? The vinegar smell goes away in the wash.

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8. Use the Gentle Cycle or a Gentle Detergent

If you still want to make sure your colors last as long as possible, you can wash on your machine's gentle cycle or hand wash your special clothing. There are several detergents on the market that are formulated to prevent fading and color loss.

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1. Check the Tags.

Review the clothing care suggestions before using any type of bleach. It's also a good idea to test the clothing to make sure it is colorfast before using any type of bleach.

2. Dilute the Bleach.

Never pour bleach directly onto fabric. If you don't have a bleach dispenser on your washing machine, allow water to fill up partially in the washer tub before adding bleach and then clothing. This will protect your clothing from damage.

3. Don't Mix Bleach.

Never mix bleach with ammonia or any product containing ammonia. The fumes are toxic and can make you very sick in a very short period of time. If you're in doubt, don't mix.

4. Know your Fabric.

Some fabrics should not be bleached including flame retardant clothing, silk, acetate, spandex, rubber, and elastic.

Even bleach safe fabric can be weakened over time with extensive bleach use.

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When To Use Hot Water

For most clothing the hotter the water, the cleaner the clothing will be. Most linens and white clothing are washed in hot water to remove germs and heavy soil. However, many of our clothes won't come out looking very nice if they are washed in hot water. Hot water tends to make some clothing shrink, wrinkle, and fade.

When To Use Warm Water

For most people the majority of their laundry is washed with warm water. Warm water is actually a mix of hot and cold. Some machines mix the hot and cold water 50-50, although newer machines mix 60-40. Warm water is usually the best choice for permanent press and jeans. It allows good cleaning action without as much fading, wrinkling, and shrinking.

When To Use Cold Water

Cold water is usually used for delicate items, or items with instructions to be washed in cold water.

If your cold water items are heavily soiled or dirty, you need to be especially diligent about checking and pre-treating for stains. You may also have to wash the items for longer, or allow them to soak before washing if they are heavily soiled.

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4 Ways To Choose the Right Washing Temperature

1. Check the tag.

While you'll be able to use your discretion with many clothing items, checking the tag allows you to find any special instructions. We often forget to check the tag when we buy items, only to find out there is a 25 step list of washing instruction for best results. Check the tags and pull out items that have special instructions.

2. Check the water temperature.

Use a candy thermometer and check the water temperature of the cold, warm, and hot water coming out of your machine. Hot water is most often 10 degrees colder when it arrives at your machine from when it leaves your hot water heater. In general hot water is 130 degrees Fahrenheit (54.4 Celsius) or above. Warm water is between 110 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3-32.2 Celsius). Cold water is generally between 80 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit (26.7-15 Celsius). If cold water is below 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 Celsius), clothes are unlikely to be cleaned very well.

3. Pre-treat stains.

Pre-treating the stains will allow the clothing to get clean even if it needs to be washed in warm or cold water. Take the time to pretreat for stain removal before they are washed and you have a much better chance of clothing coming out clean and stain-free.

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4. Soak.

If clothing does require cold water, try soaking the clothing before washing to insure that clothing will actually be cleaned thoroughly.

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Removing stains can sometimes seem like a complex algebra problem. By the time you determine the stain type, origin of the stain, fabric type and color schemed you can feel pessimistic about stain removal. Try these 10 simple stain removal rules to get your laundry in shape.

1. Act quickly.

Fresh stains make stain removal an easy task. Give yourself the upper hand by treating stains as promptly after they happen as possible. If your stains are on a non-washable fabric, take them to the dry cleaners as soon as possible. Be sure to point out the stain to the dry cleaner and describe the nature of the stain. This makes the likelihood of stain removal success greater.

2. Follow the directions.

Follow the directions on any stain removal products you use. Don't forget to follow washing directions on the stained clothes.

Getting the stain out, won't make much difference if you ruin the clothing in the process.

3. Test in a hidden area.

Don't forget to test any stain removal methods on a hidden seam or other inconspicuous spot. You want to check for colorfastness before applying a treatment to a large or noticeable area of the clothing. Do not use if the color changes.

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4. Remove stains from the back.

Place the stained garment with the stain upside down on top of a clean white cloth. Apply stain treatment to the back of the stain. Our goal is to remove the stain from the clothing instead of making it travel all the way through to the other side. Make sure to move the stained clothing to a fresh spot as the stain begins to remove itself from the clothing and onto the cloth.

5. Be careful with dry cleaning solvents.

Make sure to rinse thoroughly, and allow to air dry any garment that's had dry cleaning solvents used on it. These solvents can be a fire hazard in a washing machine. Remember never to put dry cleaning solvents directly into the washing machine.

6. Be wary of even color removal with bleach.

Bleaching only one stained spot on a garment may result in uneven color removal for the entire garment. Consider using the appropriate bleach listed in the garment tag to bleach the entire garment.

7. Don't mix stain removal products.

Mixing different chemicals can cause toxic odors and mixed results on your clothing.

8. Wash stain treated items.

Remember to thoroughly wash items that have treated with stain removal products to remove product residue and also the stain residue.

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9. Be patient.

Stain removal can take time. Sometimes repeat treatments may be required. Be sure to thoroughly check the garment before drying to determine if a repeat treatment is necessary. Drying will cause a stain to set.

10. Some stains won't leave.

For some stains, no stain removal idea or tip can get rid of them without damaging the clothing or its color. But take heart in the fact that the other 9 general stain removal tips will give you a fighting chance against all the stains in your laundry basket. Just a few simple guidelines can take the guesswork out of stain removal.

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Adding 1/2 cup of vinegar to the rinse cycle of your washing machine saves you from buying a separate laundry softener. Vinegar works naturally to soften your laundry and has the added benefit of breaking down laundry detergent very effectively. This added benefit means less detergent sensitive allergies for families that struggle with sensitive skin. Don't be put off by the fragrance of vinegar. The odor disappears when vinegar dries. So go ahead and try a bottle of vinegar in place of your laundry softener.

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Spring is here and it's time for all of us to enjoy the fun of sunshine, warm weather, fresh fruit and more. It's also time for us to refresh how to treat some of spring's toughest stains. Take a look at eight of spring's surprises that end up on your clothes.

Mustard

Pre-treat using laundry detergent or stain remover. Wash normally using color safe bleach. Be sure to check for colorfastness.

Ketchup

Rinse in cold water. Apply stain remover or laundry detergent as a pre-treater. Wash normally according to tag directions.

Barbeque Sauce

Rinse in cold water. Apply stain remover or laundry detergent. Color-safe bleach may be needed. Wash normally.

Berries

Wash with detergent in the hottest water appropriate to the fabric.

Tough stains may need soaking with an enzyme presoak for 30 minutes. For tough berry stains use color safe bleach. Remember to test products in a hidden place for colorfastness.

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Mud and Dirt

Remove as much of the excess dirt as you can. Soak the clothing with a presoak for 30 minutes for a new stain. If the stain is old, it should soak for a few hours. Wash the clothing and rinse. If the stain remains, repeat the soaking again.

Grass

Pre-treat with a stain remover or detergent that has enzymes. If the stain remains try using color safe bleach in the warmest water recommended on the clothing tag.

Greases and Oils

Pre-treat with detergent and wash in warmest water. For really heavy stains, put clothing face down on a towel and apply stain remover to the back of the stain. Blot with a clean white cloth. Let sit. Rinse and wash.

Sweat

Pre-treat the area, Apply laundry detergent directly to the stain, massage in. Wash according to clothing directions. Don't dry in the dryer or iron until the stain is removed. This causes stains to set in.

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The stain remover section of any major store is filled with different formulas designed to remove stains from your laundry. Stain removers can be a great asset to your cleaning solutions, tackling everything from avocado to white out stains. Here are our top picks for stain removers for your laundry.

1. OxiClean Laundry Stain Remover

OxiClean Laundry Stain Remover removes set in stains on your toughest laundry disasters. Grass, wine, blood, dirt, and soft drinks are no match for the tough quick action of OxiClean Laundry Stain Remover. OxiClean Laundry Stain Remover does a great job on your water washable upholstery, and on kitchen and bathroom grime.

2. Tide Stain Brush

The Tide Stain Brush is a battery operated stain remover brush designed to rub Liquid Tide into stains allowing them to be pretreated and removed easily. This little gadget does a great job on stains and keeps you from having to get your hands as dirty.

3. Tide To Go

Tide To Go is a marker sized magic pen that removes fresh food and drink stains without the need for water or a washing machine. Tide To Go is handy to have in your home, car, and purse for those unexpected stains that need to be dealt with now.

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4. Spray and Wash Dual Power Laundry Stain Remover

Spray and Wash Dual Power Laundry Stain Remover combines the power of a pretreater designed to wipe out oily stains with an enzyme cleaner that increases the ability to remove juice, coffee, and other food stains. This fizzing stain remover breaks down tough stains easily.

5. Oxiclean Stain Remover Wipes

OxiClean Stain Remover Wipes are a great option for on the go stain fighting needs. With the power of OxiClean's cleaner and the convenient form of a wipe, you'll never have to stay embarrassed all day over a little spill from breakfast. Try OxiClean's Stain Remover Wipes on all the little accidents you need to hide.

6. Zout Stain Remover

Zout stain remover is a great product to remove blood and protein stains from your laundry. Effective on all types of stains, Zout comes in a liquid, spray, and Oxy Foam varieties. A long time favorite among many housekeepers, Zout is powerful at knocking out tough laundry stains without a lot of effort from you.

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7. Spray and Wash Stain Stick

The Spray and Wash Stain Stick remains one of my favorite stain removal products. For busy families, the benefit of treating stains now and washing up to a week later is more than just convenient. The Spray and Wash Stain Stick is a great pretreater with a lot of convenience and ease of use.

8. Shout Gel

Shout Gel has a built in fabric brush that combines with the stain removal gel to make a powerful cleaner. Shout Gel is easy to use and effective on tough laundry stains. The gel works well even in cold water washes and rinses, making Shout Gel a fabulous choice for stain removal.

9. Bio-Kleen Bac Out Stain and Odor Eliminator

Bi-O-Kleen's Bac Out Stain and Odor Eliminator contains natural enzymes that break down organic waste. A super effective cleaner, Bi-O-Kleen is especially effective on smelly laundry stains. Bi-O-Kleen is also effective on carpet stains, drains, garbage disposals, diaper pails, pet stains, and bathrooms. Without any harsh smells or chemicals, Bi-O-Kleen is a fantastic stain and odor eliminator.

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10. Clorox Bleach Pen

The Clorox Bleach Pen gives you the ability to bleach small stained areas on clothing without bleaching an entire garment. One end of the Clorox Bleach Pen has a small precision tip, perfect for navigating around a pattern on clothing. The other side of the Clorox Bleach Pen has a scrub brush to provide extra power when needed. Great for laundry, the Clorox Bleach Pen also does a great job in kitchens and bathrooms with bleaching needs.

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Ever wondered what the fabric care tags on your clothes actually meant? What is acetate anyway? Learn how to identify fabric types including acetate, acrylic, cotton, linen, nylon, polyester, rayon, silk, satin, velvet, denim, felt, flannel, microfiber, and much more. Find out what fabric types you have in order to learn to care for your fabrics more effectively.

"Rayon"

Definition: Rayon is a soft and comfortable fabric that absorbs well and has few static and pilling problems. Rayon can have problems with shrinking. There are both dry clean only and washable rayon fabrics on the market today. The only difference in these rayon fabrics is their finishing stages. Watch care labels closely to know what type your clothing is. Although rayon has many characteristics that make it a great fabric, it can also be easily ruined by disregarding care labels.

Polyester

Polyester is a strong and durable synthetic fabric. Polyester dries quickly and can be washable or dry clean only, so check your tags. Polyester is often used as a blend with other fabrics to lend wrinkle resistance. It is not the easiest fabric to remove stains from, and doesn't breathe as well as other fabrics may.

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"Linen"

Definition: Linen is a natural fiber that is very strong and comfortable. Linen can be hand washed and/or dry clean only. It irons nicely to a nice crisp fabric. Linen is often used for tablecloths, sheets, and curtains. Linen also has a nice comfortable shape and feel that make it a popular choice for clothing.

"Nylon"

Definition: Nylon is a synthetic fabric that is strong and lightweight. Nylon is easy to wash and take care of. Because nylon resists absorbing moisture and dries easily, it is often used for swimwear and active wear.

"Cotton"

Definition: Cotton is probably one of the most common fabrics you're likely to have in your home as clothing. Cotton is a natural fiber and is used in a wide variety of clothing and home furnishings. Cotton is easily washed and/or dry cleaned. Cotton is a good strong fabric that is absorbent, and easy to work with. Cotton has a tendency to wrinkle very easily, so cotton/polyester blends began to be popular. Many people prefer the year-round "breathing" and lack of pilling of one hundred percent cotton.

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"Acrylic"

Definition: Acrylic is a synthetic or manufactured fiber that is both soft and lightweight. It dries easily and is machine washable. Acrylics are popular because of their ability to retain their shape and texture after washing and drying, however they can pill easily. Static cling also happens frequently with acrylics.

"Acetate"

Definition: Acetate is a synthetic or manufactured fiber with a silky luxurious appearance. It dries easily and resists absorbing moisture. Most acetate fabrics will need to be dry cleaned for their care. Some newer pieces of clothing are being made with acetate knits. Some of these newer pieces are able to be washed. Acetate is a frequently used fabric in clothing and home furnishing uses.

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Laundry should be a simple enough chore, but when you throw in all the different laundry terms, it can be tough to know what your laundry needs. Find out all the definitions you need to know to get your laundry clean.

"Definition of Colorfastness"

Definition: Clothing is colorfast if its colors and dyes do not bleed or run from the clothing. Clothing should be tested for colorfastness before using any type of bleach or bleaching solution, or strong cleaning product.

How to Test

To test for colorfastness, find a hidden seam of the garment or an hidden spot. Apply the cleaner to the garment and then dab the area with a clean cotton cloth. If the color removes itself from the garment onto the cloth, you should not use the cleaning product on the clothing.

"Spot Stain Remover Definition"

Definition: Spot stain removers are used to treat a small stained area on washable fabrics. Some stain removers are formulated for specific types of stains like oils and greases, proteins, etc. There are also spot stain removers available for treating specific stains. Clothing treated with spot stain removers will need to be washed. See the directions to know how soon treated clothing will need to be laundered.

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"Bleach"

Definition: Bleach is a laundry aid that helps remover dirt and stains from clothing. Bleach creates a chemical reaction with soil that breaks it down and removes it from clothing. Bleach also has whitening and brightening effect on clothing. There are two different types of bleach.

Chlorine bleach usually comes in a liquid form, but can occasionally be found in a powder form. Chlorine bleach contains sodium hypochloride diluted with water. This type of bleach is very powerful and can also disinfect laundry, but isn't safe for some fabric types.

Oxygen bleach is safe for use on most fabrics and is sometimes known as color-safe bleach or all-fabric bleach. Even this type of bleach may not be safe for all fabrics.