Clothing Care Basics

Unit: Clothing & Textiles

Problem Area: Caring for Clothing: Natural and Manufactured Fabrics

Lesson: Clothing Care Basics

Student Learning Objectives.

Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. **Follow basic laundry guidelines.**
2. **Differentiate between dry cleaning, ironing, pressing, and steaming.**
3. **Carry out basic garment repairs.**

Resources.

The following resources may be useful in teaching this lesson:

E-unit(s) corresponding to this lesson plan. CAERT, Inc. http://www.mycaert.com.

"How to Iron a Dress Shirt," *Art of Manliness."* Accessed May 28, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EpinulvKTA.

Kerr, Jolie. "How To Do Laundry," *New York Times.* Accessed May 28, 2019. https://www.nytimes.com/guides/smarterliving/how-to-do-laundry

"Laundry Symbols Explained: Ultimate Guide to Care Labels," *IHateIroning.com.* Accessed May 28, 2019. http://www.ihateironing.com/blog/laundry-symbols-explained.

"Pressing or Ironing," *Heirloom Creations Blog.* Accessed May 28, 2019. http://www.heirloomcreations.net/pressing-or-ironing.

"Stain Removal Guide," *American Cleaning Institute (ACI).* Accessed May 28, 2019. https://www.cleaninginstitute.org/cleaning-tips/clothes/stain-removal-guide.



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Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities:

- ✓ Overhead or PowerPoint projector
- ✓ Visual(s) from accompanying master(s)
- ✓ Copies of sample test, lab sheet(s), and/or other items designed for duplication
- ✓ Materials listed on duplicated items
- ✓ Computers with printers and Internet access
- ✓ Classroom resource and reference materials

Key Terms.

The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

- bleach
- dry cleaning
- enzyme presoak
- fabric softeners
- garment steamer
- ironing
- launder
- laundry
- laundry detergent
- laundry starch
- laundry symbol
- pressing
- pressing cloth
- pressing ham
- pretreating
- sleeve board
- steaming

Interest Approach.

Use an interest approach that will prepare the students for the lesson. Teachers often develop approaches for their unique class and student situations. A possible approach is included here.

> *How many of your students know how to do laundry? How many iron their clothes? Have any of the students noticed that some people's clothes always look crisp? Crisp clothes are enviable. This lesson is about basic clothing care: how to do laundry, how to iron your clothes, and how to fold a t-shirt. [Project VM–A to illustrate how to fold a t-shirt.]*

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CONTENT SUMMARY AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1: Follow basic laundry guidelines.

Anticipated Problem: What is laundry? How does one do laundry? What are tips to make garments look their best? How are clothing stains treated before laundering?

I. When it comes to doing laundry everyone may do it a bit differently but there are guidelines that help keep garments in their best shape/condition. To look their best and wear for a reasonable length of time, a person must know basic laundry care procedures. The time spent to do a load of laundry correctly increases the life span of the garment.

A. To ***launder*** is to wash, dry, fold, and iron clothing and linens. ***Laundry*** is any clothing and linens being washed or that have been newly washed. The process of doing laundry is sorting and separating clothes and linens into appropriate loads (whites, delicates, darks, towels, sheets, etc.), prepping and pretreating stains, washing, drying, folding, and then putting laundry away.

B. LAUNDRY PROCESS: The basic laundry guidelines are:

1. STEP 1: Sort and Separate. Sorting and separating soiled laundry is the first step to good garment care. Most will have a manufacturer's laundry symbol on the label to indicate the best way to clean the garment. Soiled laundry is sorted into "like piles": by color, degree of soil, or by type of fabric. Regardless some items will need prepping and pretreating before washing and others are sorted based on wash cycles (e.g., delicate, cotton, heavy soil, etc.). There are a variety of ways that the laundry can be sorted. [NOTE: With the addition of newer, larger, and better quality washing machines the need to sort is beginning to be a thing of the past but when time allows, sorting is the first step.] Laundry is sorted and separated in a number of ways:

a. A ***laundry symbol*** (care symbol) is a pictogram that indicates how the garment or linen is best cleaned: dry clean, dry clean only, iron, dry at a low setting, etc. Laundry symbols have been on garments since 1997 and as new fabrics are available new care labels may be produced. A symbol with an "X" through it tells the launderer NOT to use this form of cleaning with this garment. Laundry symbols help one sort and pretreat laundry. [NOTE: Laundry symbol charts are available online: search 'laundry care labels.']

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b. Color is an easy way to sort laundry into piles: white, light, bright, and dark. Another commonly sorted pile is that of lint generators such as towels. The color of the fabric also helps indicate the recommended water temperature.
   (1) Hot Water: Whites typically need hot water, which is the best for getting stains out.
   (2) Warm Water: Lights can use warm or hot.
   (3) Cold Water: Bright colors are best washed in cold water to help ensure that those vibrant colors don't run or fade. Darks are usually washed in cold water.

c. Fabric type is a second method to sort laundry. For example, a linen shirt needs a different temperature than do blue jeans. Often, all denim is washed together regardless of color. Synthetics are sometimes separated from natural fibers as synthetic fabrics tend to easily absorb dyes and can 'pull color' from natural fibers.

d. Degree of soil is another way to sort laundry. This method allows all the really dirty clothes to be in one load with no chance of carrying dirt onto cleaner or more delicate garments.

2. STEP 2: Prepping and Pretreating. An important laundry step is checking the garment for stains or for any basic repairs the garment may need.
   a. Prepping is pulling out any garment in need of basic garment repair: a small rip or tear, a missing button, hook or eye, or a broken zipper. If garments are checked often and fixed as soon as a problem is found the garments tend to stay in better overall shape. Then, to prep garments for laundry:
      (1) Close zippers
      (2) Remove belts and ties
      (3) Check the pockets of all garments [NOTE: A pen in a pocket can be a lot of trouble if it is laundered with a load of whites in hot water.]
   b. ***Pretreating*** is the use of a stain remover on a garment prior to washing or cleaning. Pretreating garment stains helps ensure garments come out of the washer clean and prevents stains from "setting" when dried in a dryer. Today, a person can find the solution to any stain removal from the Internet (search 'stain charts'). Some stains need hot water to dissolve the spot while protein-based stains set in more when hot water is used.
      (1) Check the neck, collar, and cuffs of shirts for excess dirt and grime. Use a prewash on the soiled area or place a little extra detergent directly on the stain. Commercial prewashes are available in spray, stick, or powder forms. Set-in stains may require pretreating by soaking the garment in a solution of detergent or a pretreatment solution.
      (2) Pretreatments are specific to oil or grease stains and other heavy stains may require an enzyme presoak. An ***enzyme presoak*** is a prewash stain removal treatment used to break down protein

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stains–grass, blood, baby-formula–to ensure the garment is easily cleaned during the regular wash cycle.

3. STEP 3: Wash and Dry. Washing and drying are the basics of laundering clothing. With so many different types of washers and dryers available, it's more important than ever to read the manual for these machines and understand all the options. The simplest washers have two settings and some have a wide range of settings and options. Some machines use the new detergent packets while others work much better with granular or liquid laundry detergent.
   a. ***Laundry detergent*** is a water-soluble cleansing agent added to the water in a washing machine to remove soil from clothing. Detergents are different than soaps in that they are not made with fats or oils (as are soaps) and, as a result, leave no scum in hard water. Detergents can be purchased in packets, granular, and liquid forms, and come with or without fragrance. It is best, regardless of the type of machine or detergent, to add the detergent to the water as the machine fills to ensure the cleaning agent is well distributed in the water. This action eliminates the chance that detergent directly hits the garments and perhaps bleeds dye or discolors the garment. A large washing machine with a large load may need more detergent than a regular machine and load. Clothes washers often have special locations and features for adding softeners and bleach. The fabric, wash cycle, water temperature, wash cycle length, and extra rinse cycles, are options controlled by the launderer. Some of the newest machines also allow the washing of small delicate items separate from the main load. Hand washing may or may not require a different type of detergent depending on the fabric of the garment and its laundry symbol.
   b. Washing machines are either top or front load; front-load washers fit best in small laundry rooms. The washer uses agitation, detergent, and water temperature to clean the garments. It's important not to overload the washer so that agitation can move the water freely and do the best job of cleaning.
      (1) Hot water wash temperature is 120 to 140°F; the best temperature range for cleaning and sanitizing clothing. However, at this temperature some fabrics tend to shrink and others to fade.
      (2) Warm water wash temperature is 85 to 105°F: a perfect temperature for many fabrics and finishes and for permanent press clothing. Warm temperatures eliminate some wrinkles better than cold water.
      (3) Cold water wash temperature is 65 to 75°F: prevents bleeding and is a great way to save energy.
   c. ***Bleach*** is a chemical used to whiten or sterilize materials that works best in hot water. Sodium hypochlorite is an active ingredient in bleach. Non-chlorine bleaches are safely for use on colored clothing and should contain no sodium hypochlorite.
   d. ***Fabric softeners*** are added to the rinse cycle, or to the dryer, to relax clothing fibers and make them more pliable. New softener bars/balls are permanently added to the interior of the dryer and last longer than dryer

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sheets. [NOTE: Dryer balls can be purchased or they can be made out of wool yarn as a DIY project.]

e. ***Laundry starch*** is made from rice, corn, or wheat and added to clothing either during laundering or when ironing to add body (crispness) to a garment. Starches add stiffness and crispness to the fabric and help create clean lines when ironing.

f. Hand washing in a sink or bucket is used to clean delicate fabrics or garments or to remove garment stains. Generally, hand washing is a process of mixing detergent with cold water, rubbing the stain between hands, and allow the garment to soak for 5 to 30 minutes. Then, the wash water is drained and the sink or bucket filled with clean water. The clothing is returned to the sink or bucket and the detergent is rinsed out by squeezing and wringing. The rinse process may be done multiple times. Finally, the garment is wrung out and rolled in a clean towel to absorb more water. Line dry, hand, or lay flat.

g. Garments must be dried after washing. Drying can be done by an electric or gas dryer, line dried, or laid flat to dry. Generally loads of clothes that are washed together are dried together. Dryer heat may not be suitable for some fabrics, and those garments should be line dried or laid flat on some towels to dry. Line drying can be done inside or out. Outside line drying is with a clothesline and clothespins. Inside drying in a laundry room is made easy with drying racks affixed on the wall or placed in the room. To dry in an electric or gas dryer:

   (1) Shake out the wet clothes.

   (2) Turn the clothes right side out prior to drying.

   (3) Avoid overloading the dryer to dry the clothes faster.

   (4) Avoid over drying garments and using too high heat setting as that can result in fabric shrinkage.

   (5) Shake out the garments as they are removed from the dryer and hang or fold to put them away.

4. STEP 4: Fold and Put Away. Folding and putting away clothes is the final step to laundering. There is no best method but getting into the habit of immediately folding the clothes as they come out of the dryer and putting them back where they belong is best for the garments. Clothes that are shaken, hung up, or folded while still warm have fewer wrinkles. Close the zipper and button the top button on each item after hanging to ensure they will remain in place in the closet. Once the launderer has gone to all the work to wash and dry the garments, forgetting to finish (fold and put away) is a mistake.

   a. A different color clothesbasket for each family member is a good method to fold and sort garments. [NOTE: Leaving garments in a clothesbasket until needed (rather than putting them away) results in clean clothes, but ones that will always be wrinkled and need additional care (ironing, steaming, pressing) before wearing.

   b. Some laundry rooms are set up with a place for everyone to come and find their own laundry.

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Teaching Strategy: *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Use VM–A to illustrate basic laundry care. Use VM–B to review laundry symbols. Use VM–C to discuss pretreating of stains. Use VM–D to review the wash, dry, fold, and hang laundry process. Have your students look online for a stain removal chart. Set up hand washing stations and a variety of pretreatment and enzyme products for your classroom. Divide your students in pairs and provide each pair with a piece of fabric with a marked stain. Students research how to eliminate the stain they have been given and clean the sample. As a class, debrief and discuss the results of each stain's removal. Assign LS–A.*

Objective 2: Differentiate between dry cleaning, ironing, pressing, and steaming.

Anticipated Problem: What is dry cleaning? How are wrinkles removed?

II. Garment care has many different facets. One of the major ways to make garments look their best is by making sure they are pressed and crisp. In some cases dry cleaning is the best choice for keeping the garment looking its best.

A. DRY CLEANING. ***Dry cleaning*** is a process of "washing" a garment with an organic solvent (with or without water). Dry cleaning solvents are used to remove stains from delicate fabrics and are also an alternative when the launderer is not sure how to remove a stain. Harsh chemicals were used to treat stains in the early years of dry cleaning. Chemicals are still used and but the chemical regulation, including that for disposal, are better and clearer. Dry cleaning is expensive so people are often cautious about how often they use it. Many people today who need dress clothes daily for work take all their work clothes to the dry cleaner being comfortable with the fact that crisp, freshly pressed clothes are ready to wear daily. The dry cleaning process is:

1. Drop off clothes to be tagged and inspected for stains, tears, etc.
2. A client's garments are counted and described along with the drop off date and the pick up date.
3. Pretreatment is applied to any noticeable stain.
4. The clothes are placed in a machine and cleaned with a solvent.
5. After cleaning, the garment is again checked for lingering stains.
6. Finally, the garment is pressed and folded or hung along with any finishing touches and covered in a clear moisture-proof bag.

B. IRONING: ***Ironing*** is the process of moving a hot hand held device (dry or steam) over a garment to remove wrinkles. [NOTE: Irons are hot (250°F to 360°F) and care must be taken to avoid heat and steam burns.] Irons have a dial with the recommended temperature for each fabric. It's important to control the iron's temperature: use of too high heat may scorch (burn, char) the fabric. A rule of thumb when ironing is to start with a lower temperature setting and increase the temperature as needed. Also, the garment should have a care tag telling the launderer the recommended ironing temperature. Wools and knits are ironed to prevent stretching.

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1. Tools used in ironing include an iron, pressing cloth, ironing board, ironing board cover, spray bottle, sleeve board, and pressing ham. [NOTE: Different quality levels of all these tools are available for all budgets.]
    a. Irons should have a place for water to produce steam when necessary, a dial for the temperature setting, a soleplate, and a cord long enough to comfortably iron large items without becoming caught in the cord. More expensive irons can be purchased that are cordless or have more steam options.
    b. Pressing cloths should be large enough that the soleplate of the iron does not touch the garment. Most pressing cloths are 100% cotton to prevent any dye transfer and to withstand any heat level.
    c. Ironing boards are available various sizes and weights and one must consider board storage before selecting the best model. Built in, wall-mounted, drop-down, or under-counter, ironing boards are options. A sturdy ironing board is long enough to handle sleeve and pant length and has a perforated underside for release of steam. A good choice is an 18- × 48-inch ironing board with an iron rest, a cord manager, and a rack to hold finished garments. Professional style vacuum ironing boards use vacuum suction to hold the garment in place while ironing. This ironing board is not for everyone but it is an option for the person who is dedicated to ironing garments and linens.
    d. Ironing board covers are available in a variety of fabrics, colors, and patterns. It is important to purchase one that fits the board well, has adequate padding, and is Teflon™-coated to prevent clothes from sticking to the board. Teflon™ also makes it easy to clean any spray starch off the board. Pads that are felt-lined are a good option as they hold their shape longer than foam-lined pads.
    e. A spray bottle is a must. While irons have the ability to distribute heat and steam over the garment, a spray bottle allows the person ironing or pressing the ability to better control spraying a fine mist over the garment exactly where it is needed. Especially when working with natural fibers, dampening the garment makes a pressing job much easier.
    f. A ***sleeve board*** is a miniature wooden ironing board over which a sleeve is pulled for pressing. Sleeve boards make ironing dress shirts easier, wrinkles are removed without adding a crease down the center of the sleeve, and the shirt looks crisper.
    g. A ***pressing ham*** (or tailor's ham) is a tightly stuffed pillow used as a curved mold to press darts, sleeves, cuffs, collars, and waistlines.
2. Ironing tips include:
    a. To avoid scorching the garment, use a pressing cloth. A ***pressing cloth*** is a small piece of fabric (often muslin) placed between the iron and the garment.
    b. When possible, garments should be ironed on the 'wrong side' to prevent 'shine.'

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c. Starch is often used in the ironing process. The garment is lightly sprayed with starch and then allowed to rest briefly before ironing.

C. PRESSING: ***Pressing*** is placing a hot iron (dry or steam) on or near fabric to mold or shape a garment that is being constructed (sewn). In contrast, ironing applies pressure to a completed garment to remove wrinkles and there is no back-and-forth motion when pressing. When pressing one uses the lowest possible temperature and works up to higher temperatures as needed to mold the fabric. It's recommended to test a fabric scrap before working on the actual garment to ensure an appropriate heat setting. As in ironing, when pressing work from the wrong side unless it is not possible. Pressing tools are the same as ironing tools.

D. STEAMING: ***Steaming*** is a method to remove wrinkles from garments that uses jets of high temperature steam. A ***garment steamer*** (or clothes steamer) is a device that uses jets of hot steam to quickly remove wrinkles and relax fiber molecules without the device making contact with the garment. Garments are steamed while on a hanger or suit stand. Today, a tool that was once used only by retail stores is available to consumers. Garment steamers work faster than an iron and do not add creases. (This is a positive aspect for sleeves and a negative aspect for pants.)

1. The steamer produces a soft, wrinkle-free garment: the garment is not as crisp as when ironed. [NOTE: The steamer's design does make it difficult to remove wrinkles from some garments.]
2. A steamer consists of the water tank, a heating element, a long metal rod, a rubber hose, and a brush. The average temperature of a steamer is 160 to 180°F.
3. Steam helps loosen dirt and makes garments look new due to the shiny finish the steam leaves. Steamers take some practice but with a little practice, it's one of the easiest ways to quickly remove wrinkles.

Teaching Strategy: *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Use VM–E to illustrate a dry cleaning machine. Use VM–F to illustrate ironing tools and supplies. Use VM–G to show a garment steamer. Bring in an iron and ironing board and a garment steamer. Demonstrate how to iron a dress shirt. Provide some long sleeve shirts for the students to practice using the iron and the steamer. Give helpful hints and have students help each other as they complete this activity. Remind students about the safety factor when using an iron or steamer.*

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Objective 3: Carry out basic garment repairs.

Anticipated Problem: What are common garment repairs and tips? When is the best time to repair garments?

III. Doing laundry is a great time to check garments for minor repairs. Typical checks for repairs include: hems, buttons, snaps, zippers, and seams. A quick look for repairs and then making those repairs keep garments from suffering more damage.

A. RIPS & TEARS: Rips and tears are one of the first things to look for when doing a garment check.

1. Rips are common along a seam line that is stressed: underarm and crotch. Use matching color thread to repair rips by hand or with a machine. When fixing a seam it is important to start repairs an inch or so before the rip and end an inch or so beyond the rip.
2. Fabric tears can be fixed with iron on mending tape affixed to the inside of the garment or a patch can be used on the outside (right side) of the fabric. Patches can be ironed on or sewn on and are placed on the right side of the garment.

B. FASTENERS: Buttons, hook and eyes, and snaps are types of garment closures. Sorting laundry is a good time to note fasteners that need to be fixed. Because these closures endure stress and wear and tear, they may wear out or fall off over time. [NOTE: See numerous YouTube videos for directions to sew on a button or attach hook and eyes and snaps.] Tips for repairing fasteners include:

1. TIP #1: Fixing a loose button (before it falls off) is preferable to trying to match buttons to a garment. Buttons should match but if that is no longer possible, pick buttons that fit through the buttonhole (not so easy they will become unbuttoned).
   a. A sew-through button has holes where the thread comes up through the bottom and shows on the top. Thread is brought up and down through the holes securing it to the garment. The thread is then tied off.
   b. A shank button has a stem (shank) underneath to hold the button to the garment. The shank keeps the button from resting too close to the garment. (Shank buttons are common on bulky coats and sweaters.) Thread used should match the garment fabric.
2. TIP #2: Snaps (and hook and eyes) are used to secure garments at stress points and often need to be secured on a regular basis.
3. TIP #3: Use black hook and eyes when repairs are made to dark color garments and silver ones on lighter colors. Thread should match the fabric color.
4. TIP #4: Zippers frequently wear out prior to the garment wearing out. (This is a major item to fix, if one has the skill to fix it they can or they can take it to a dry cleaner or alterations person to have it fixed).

C. HEMS: Hems can easily come loose due to dry cleaning, walking, or stepping into the garment. As hems begin to sag the stitching becomes looser. It is simpler to

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fix a hem than to replace a hem. Thread should match the garment as closely as possible. Repair the hem from an inch or so before the loosen section to an inch or so past the loosen section, on the backside of the garment, with small hidden stitches.

> **Teaching Strategy:** *Many techniques can be used to help students master this objective. Demonstrate how to sew on a sew-through button and how to sew on a shank button. Bring in hand sewing needles and a variety of thread, sew-through and shank buttons, and fabric swatches. Have students practice sewing on both types of buttons. Share some tips for fastening button types. Provide feedback as students complete each button sample.*

- **Review/Summary.** Use the student learning objectives to summarize the lesson. Have students explain the content associated with each objective. Student responses can be used in determining which objectives need to be reviewed or taught from a different angle. If a textbook is being used, questions at the ends of chapters may also be included in the Review/Summary.

- **Application.** Use the included visual master(s) and lab sheet(s) to apply the information presented in the lesson.

- **Evaluation.** Evaluation should focus on student achievement of the objectives for the lesson. Various techniques can be used, such as student performance on the application activities. A sample written test is provided.

- **Answers to Sample Test:**

Part One: Matching

1. c
2. f
3. h
4. a
5. e
6. d
7. g
8. b

Part Two: True/False

1. F
2. F
3. F
4. F
5. T

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6. T
7. T
8. T

Part Three: Short Answer

1. A sew-through button has holes where the thread comes up through the bottom and shows on the top. Thread is brought up and down through the holes securing it to the garment. The thread is then tied off. A shank button has a stem (shank) underneath to hold the button to the garment. The shank keeps the button from resting too close to the garment. Thread used should match the garment fabric.
2. Ironing is the process of moving a hot hand held device (dry or steam) over a garment to remove wrinkles. Pressing is placing a hot iron (dry or steam) on or near fabric to mold or shape a garment that is being constructed (sewn). In contrast, ironing applies pressure to a completed garment to remove wrinkles and there is no back-and-forth motion when pressing.

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Sample Test

Name _____

Clothing Care Basics

Part One: Matching

Instructions: **Match the term with the correct definition.**

a. bleach
b. dry cleaning
c. ironing
d. laundry
e. laundry detergent
f. laundry symbol
g. pressing
h. steaming

_____1. The process of moving a hot hand held device over a garment to remove wrinkles

_____2. A pictogram that indicates how the garment or linen is best cleaned

_____3. A method to remove wrinkles from garments that uses jets of high temperature steam

_____4. A chemical used to whiten or sterilize materials

_____5. A water-soluble cleansing agent added to the water in a washing machine to remove soil from clothing

_____6. Any clothing and linens being washed or that have been newly washed

_____7. Placing a hot iron, dry or steam, on or near fabric to mold or shape a garment that is being constructed

_____8. A process of "washing" a garment with an organic solvent

Part Two: True/False

Instructions: **Write *T* for true or *F* for false.**

_____1. A garment steamer is placed on a garment and pressure is applied to remove wrinkles.

_____2. A sleeve board is a must have for regular ironing duties.



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_____3. The average washing machine water temperature is 75°F to 100°F.

_____4. Hot water is an excellent washing machine water temperature choice for most fabrics.

_____5. Sorting is the first step in doing laundry.

_____6. A pressing cloth is used to protect the fabric from high temperatures.

_____7. Rips are common along a seam line that is stressed.

_____8. Pretreating garment stains helps ensure garments come out of the washer clean and prevents stains from "setting" when dried in a dryer.

Part Three: Short Answer

Instructions: **Answer the following.**

1. Describe the difference between a sew-through button and a shank button.

2. Differentiate between ironing and pressing.

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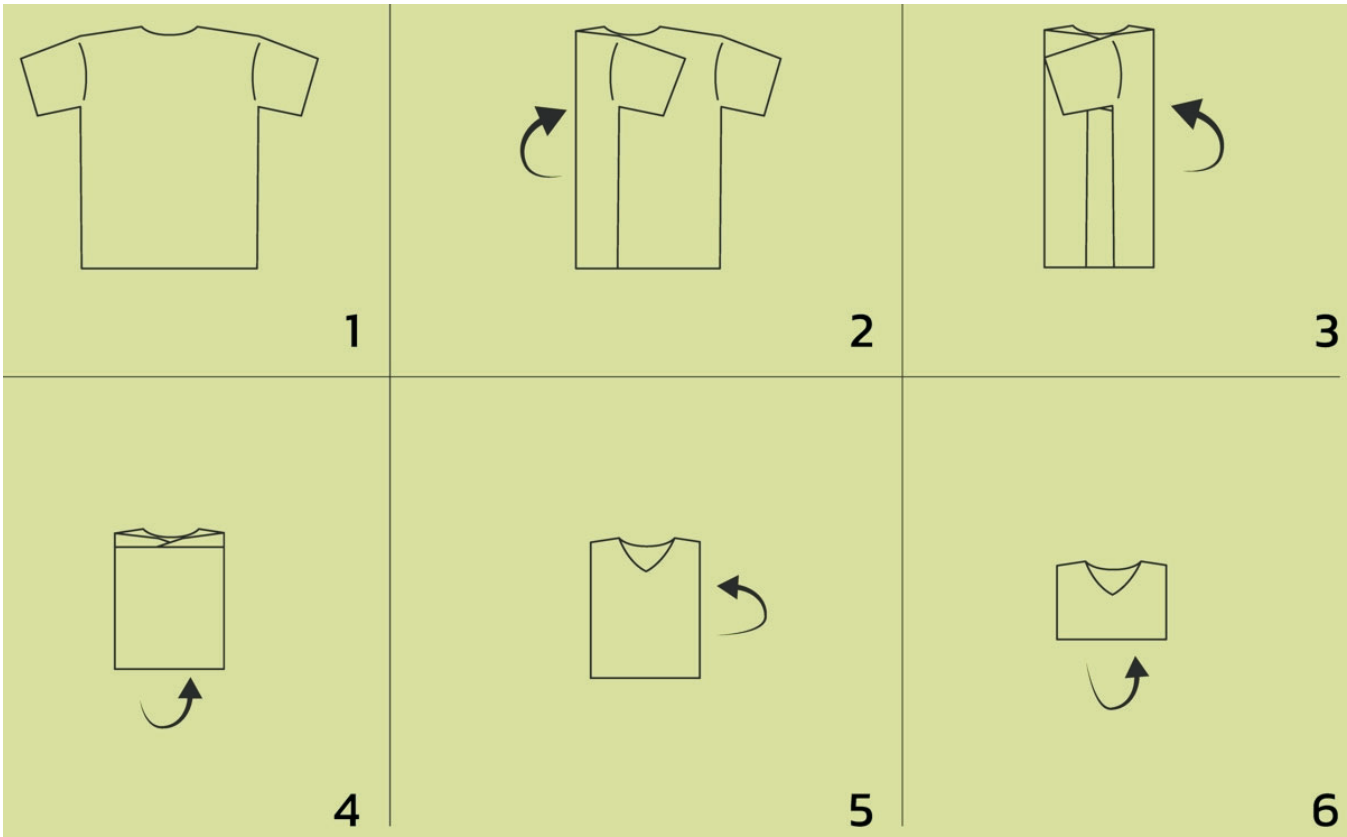
BASIC LAUNDRY CARE

To launder is to wash, dry, fold, and iron clothing and linens. Laundry is any clothing and linens being washed or that have been newly washed. The process of doing laundry is sorting and separating clothes and linens into appropriate loads, prepping and pretreating stains, washing, drying, folding, and then putting laundry away.



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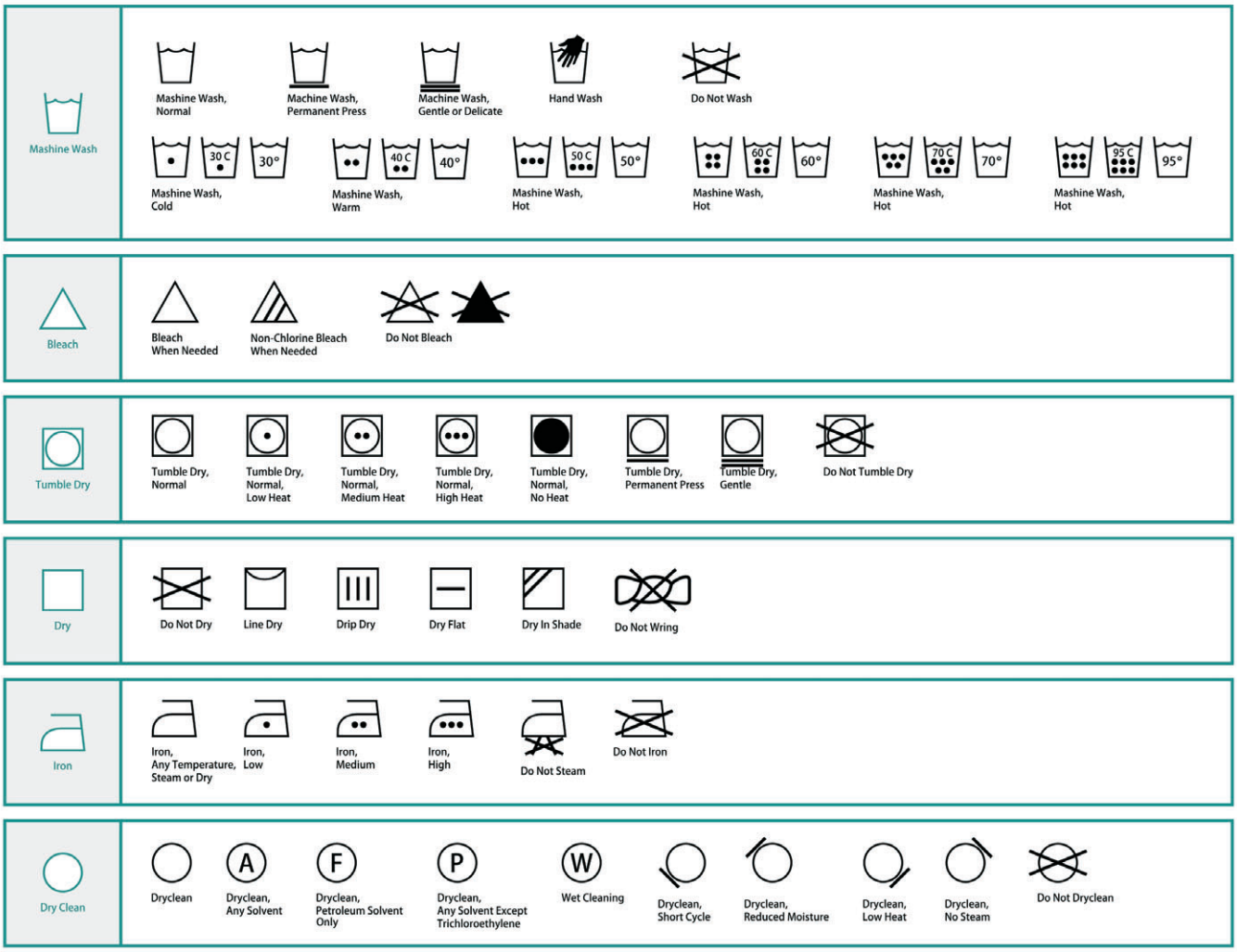
LAUNDRY SYMBOLS

A laundry symbol is a pictogram that indicates how the garment or linen is best cleaned: dry clean, dry clean only, iron, dry at a low setting, etc. A symbol with an "X" through it tells the launderer NOT to use this form of cleaning with this garment. Laundry symbols help you sort and pretreat laundry.

Laundry symbols



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PRETREATING A STAIN

Pretreating is the use of a stain remover on a garment prior to washing or cleaning. Pretreating garment stains helps ensure garments come out of the washer clean and prevents stains from "setting" when dried in a dryer.





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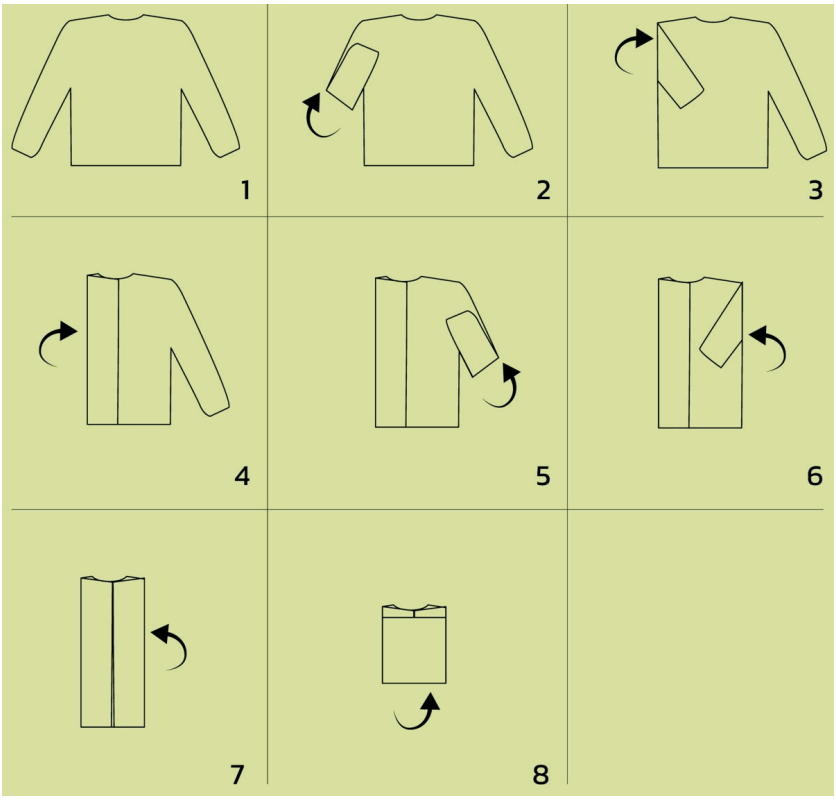
WASHING, DRYING, FOLDING, AND HANGING LAUNDRY

This laundry room features front-load washer and dryer, laundry bins, room to fold, and a place to hang laundry. Check fabric care symbols on clothes prior to washing and drying.





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DRY CLEANING

Dry cleaning is a process of "washing" a garment with an organic solvent (with or without water). This is an image of a modern dry cleaning machine that uses various types of solvents.



(Image courtesy Wikipedia at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Union_K_Series_Dry_Cleaning_Machine.jpg)

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VM–F

IRON AND IRONING BOARD

Ironing is the process of moving a hand held hot device (dry or steam) over a garment to remove wrinkles. [NOTE: Irons are hot (250°F to 360°F) and care must be taken to avoid heat and steam burns.] Ironing equipment includes an iron, ironing board, ironing board pad, spray bottle, sleeve board, and pressing ham.



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VM–G

GARMENT STEAMER

This hand held garment steamer releases wrinkles from a garment quicker than ironing.



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LS–A

Name _____

Laundry Aids: Cost Per Load

Purpose

The purpose of this lab activity is to calculate the cost per load of laundry aids.

Objectives

1. Collect cost per load information for laundry aids.
2. Read online customer reviews of the laundry aids you identified.
3. Write a summary of your findings.

Materials

- lab sheet
- device with Internet access
- paper
- pencil or pen
- local grocery store or general store with laundry products
- OPTIONAL: calculator

Procedure

1. Collect laundry aid price per load information. Take this lab sheet to the local grocery store or general store and find the laundry aisle. Walk the aisle and collect the following products prices per load.

    a. First, for each laundry aid category, find the brand you use at home and one brand that is higher priced and one that is lower priced. Record the price per load.



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b. For the laundry detergent category, select the same type of detergent (liquid, powder, pods) for all three brands. (e.g., If you use Walmart's house brand pods at home, then select two other brands of pods for this task.)

c. For the fabric softener category, again select the brand you use at home and then record cost per load prices to ensure that you have prices for washing machine and dryer products (e.g., dryer sheets, balls, bars; washing machine liquid and solid types).

d. For all brands and types of laundry aids, check those that use bleach (sodium hypochlorite) in their product. Place an "X" in the column to indicate bleach is an ingredient in this product.

Laundry Aid	Brand	Cost Per Load	Bleach (X)
Detergents			
Fabric Softeners			
Pretreats			

2. Read three online customer reviews of each product in your table. Briefly summarize those reviews.

a. Detergent Summary:

b. Fabric Softener Summary:

c. Pretreat Summary:

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3. Write a summary of your findings. Based on the information you collected in the table and the online customer reviews you read, respond to the following questions.

   a. Are detergent liquids, powders, or pods more expensive per load?

   b. Are the softeners for the washer or the softeners for the dryers more expensive per load?

   c. Which pretreatment products received the best online reviews?

   d. How many of the laundry aids you reviewed use bleach in their product?

   e. What new laundry aids did you note in the laundry aisle?

4. Share your findings with the class during a whole class discussion.
5. Turn in your completed lab sheet and summary to the teacher.

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