

## CHAPTER 15

# Laundry and Dry Cleaning

## EXAMINE THIS ISSUE

**Easy care.** Some people only purchase clothing that is "easy care," with fabrics that are machine washable, machine dryable, and require little or no ironing. They don't want to spend their time hand washing, line drying, and ironing. Other people don't mind the added time and effort it takes to care for fabrics that need special attention. Hand washing and ironing don't bother them because they like the appearance, feel, and comfort of these fabrics.

### What do you think?

Which profile fits you? Would you spend extra time caring for fabrics to make them last longer or to improve your appearance? Why do you think people have different viewpoints on clothing care?

## OBJECTIVES

- Explain the use of laundry products and equipment.
- Describe the steps involved in laundering clothes.
- Compare ways of drying clothes.
- Demonstrate how to iron clothes.
- Explain dry-cleaning processes.

## KEY TERMS

agitator  
detergents  
dry cleaning  
ironing  
laundering  
solvent

to handling laundry can help. Begin by learning how to select and use laundry products and equipment.

## Selecting Laundry Products

When confronted by a store aisle full of laundry products, choosing isn't easy. If you learn about products before you shop and then read labels, decisions are easier to make.

In using laundry products, be sure to follow label directions. You'll achieve better results and be safe in the process. Some products, such as bleach, are harmful if they come in contact with eyes and skin. Since swallowing can be hazardous, always keep laundry products locked away from children's reach. See Fig. 15-1.

**15-1** Special locking devices on cabinets keep laundry products and other cleaning supplies safely away from children's exploration.



JUST A FEW GENERATIONS AGO, doing the laundry was nothing like what it is today. Imagine hand-feeding each garment through a wringer to squeeze out the water before hanging everything on lines to dry. Although methods have changed, there is still much to learn today about keeping clothes clean and in good condition.

The garment care label is your guide. It tells you whether to machine-wash, hand-wash, or dry-clean a garment. This chapter tells you how.

## LAUNDRY PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT

In one family, everyone is convinced that the washing machine eats socks. In another family, turning white clothes pink or blue happens a little too often. You may know stories about shrinking garments, mysterious holes, or stubborn stains. Whatever the problem, a skillful approach

**15-2** To use a detergent correctly, you'll need to read the information on the box. It will tell you how much to use based on the washer and load size.

### Laundry Detergents

Detergents are cleansing agents that remove soil from fabric and prevent it from returning to the fabric. They are available as powders, liquids, and premeasured tablets.

Detergents have essentially replaced soaps for laundering because they work well in both hard and soft water. Soap reacts with minerals in hard water and in the soil on clothes to form a white, powdery curd that stiffens fabric. The soap's ability to clean decreases. Since hardness minerals have less effect on detergents, detergents make a better choice for laundry products.

You'll find several types of laundry detergents in stores, so you can choose according to your need.

- **All-purpose detergents.** These are suitable for all washable fabrics. Powder detergents are good for all types of laundry, from lightly soiled shirts to heavily soiled work clothes. Liquid detergents are also all-purpose but work especially well on greasy or oily stains.
- **Ultra detergents.** In general, both liquid and powder detergents come in this concentrated form. The packages are smaller, and you use less product.
- **Combination detergents.** Some detergents combine color-safe bleach or fabric softener with detergent. Adding bleach improves cleaning as well as stain removal. Adding a softener makes fabrics feel softer and reduces static electricity. These products are available in both powder and liquid forms.
- **Fragrance and dye-free detergents.** For people with certain allergies, these products are available.
- **Light-duty detergents.** These detergents work well for hand- or machine-washing delicate or lightly soiled fabrics, such as hosiery and lingerie.



Many detergents are low foaming in order to work well in the newer front-loading, high-efficiency washers, which create more suds. Too much suds can keep clothes from tumbling and getting clean.

When laundering clothes, use the detergent amount specified on the box or bottle. The manufacturer's recommendations are for an average load with average soil in water of average hardness. Use less detergent for small loads, lightly soiled clothes, low water levels, and soft water. Use more detergent for big loads, extremely dirty clothes, high water levels, and hard water. See Fig. 15-2.

### Soil-and-Stain Removers

For removing stains and treating clothes that are particularly dirty, you can keep appropriate products on hand. Use the guidelines for stain removal in Chapter 14.

- **Prewash soil-and-stain removers.** These are applied to fabric before washing. They are available in spray, liquid, stick, gel, and aerosol forms.
- **Enzyme presoaks.** These come in a powder form and can be used prior to washing or added to the wash cycle along with detergent.

### Laundry Bleaches

Bleaches remove stains, whiten and brighten fabrics, and destroy bacteria. See Fig. 15-3. If used too often or if highly concentrated in water, however, bleach can weaken fibers. There are two types of bleach, with and without chlorine.

- **Chlorine bleach.** Labeled "chlorine" or "hypochlorite," chlorine bleach is most effective for whitening, disinfecting, and deodorizing. It cannot be used, however, on wool, silk, leather, spandex, and nonfast colors.

**15-3** Bleach can turn dingy white clothing brighter and whiter. Suppose you have a stretchy white top that looks grayish around the neckline. Would you wash it in bleach?

- **Nonchlorine bleach.** Also called oxygen bleach, this product may be identified as "color safe" or "safe for all fabrics." Because it's mild, nonchlorine bleach can maintain the brightness of both whites and colors but cannot restore whiteness to gray and dingy fabrics.

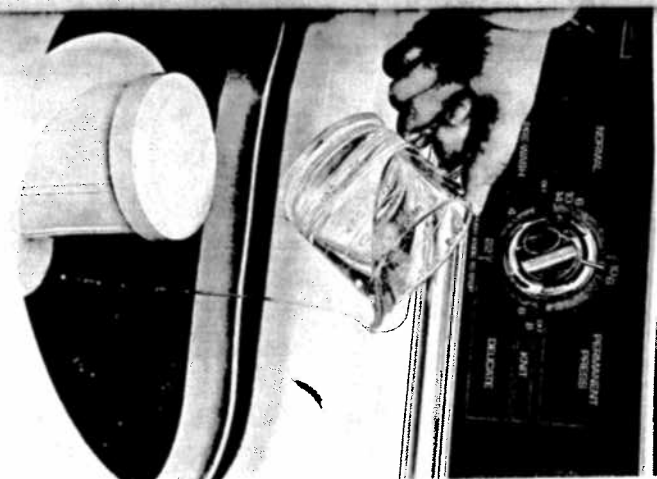
Always add bleach to the water while the washing machine fills. Then add the clothes. This prevents fabric discolorations caused by splashing or pouring the bleach directly onto clothes. Some washing machines have a special bleach dispenser that automatically dilutes the bleach.

### Other Laundry Products

For further help with laundering, other products are available.

- **Fabric softeners.** Fabrics feel softer, have less static electricity, and are fragrant with the use of fabric softeners. See Fig. 15-4. Liquid softeners are added to the water during the final rinse. Pouring directly on the clothes could cause stains. With some washing machines, the softener goes in a dispenser. Too

**15-4** Fabric softeners are available for use in the washer or the dryer, as shown here. What advantages might each method have?



much fabric softener can make towels less absorbent, but you can remove the excess by washing the towels several times without any softener.

Fabric softeners in the form of nonwoven sheets can be placed in the dryer, either with the clothes or in a holder to avoid direct contact with fabrics. The heat of the dryer releases the fabric softener and scent, which adhere to the fabrics. Add only one sheet per load and don't reuse.

- **Starches.** These are a type of sizing that gives body to fabrics and makes ironing easier. Spray starch can be applied before ironing. Dry and liquid starches should be mixed with water before using.

- **Water softeners.** Mineral deposits that prevent thorough cleaning can be removed from hard water with water softeners. The powder form goes in either the wash or rinse cycle. The liquid form is added only to the rinse water. Some families have a water softening system installed at home to remove many of the minerals in water.

- **Disinfectants.** The germicides in these products destroy bacteria on fabric. Available in liquid form, they may be used when a family member is ill.

## Using Laundry Equipment

What equipment do you need to do laundry? A washing machine, clothes dryer, iron, and ironing board are basic. Families who don't own a washer and dryer can use machines in self-service laundries. Many apartment buildings have laundry rooms with coin-operated machines for tenant use only.

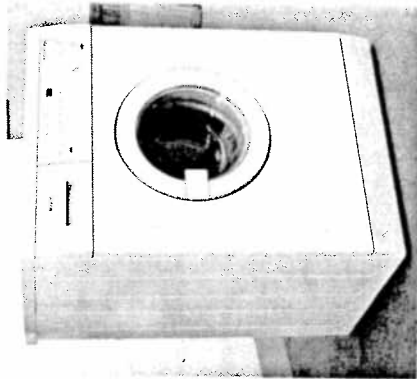
## Washers and Dryers

Of the two types of washing machines, the common top-loading machine has been around for years. It has a lid that lifts up and a center post, called an **agitator**, which jiggles clothes during the wash cycle to loosen dirt and get out soil. See Fig. 15-5.

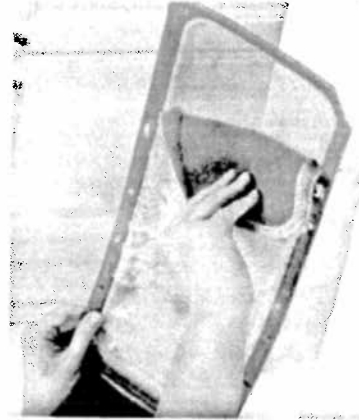
Putting your hands inside an agitator washer that's running is dangerous. To prevent this, most machines stop agitating when the lid is raised. Some machines even have a safety lock to keep the door closed until the machine motion stops.

The second type of washing machine is front-loading, with a door on the face of the machine. No agitator is present. Instead, the wash tub rotates clothes with a tumbling action similar to a clothes dryer. The newest models of these machines use less water and energy than agitator washers. See Fig. 15-6.

Washing machines often have a dispenser that automatically releases detergent, fabric softener, or bleach at the right time. With buttons or dials, you control such settings as water temperature, water level, length of washing time, and speed.



**15-6** Some washing machines load from the front. The newer models use less energy and water than top-loading machines. How else are they different?



**15-7** Even one load that has been dried in a dryer may produce considerable lint. The dryer operates more efficiently and dries clothing faster when you remove lint after each load. What fabrics do you think would produce the most lint?

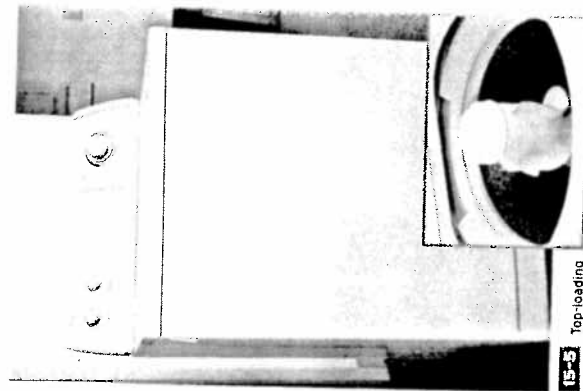
Most washing machines offer at least three wash cycles: regular, wrinkle-free or permanent press, and gentle.

Clothes dryers have buttons or dials for controlling air temperature and drying time. The most common drying cycles are regular, wrinkle-free or permanent press (used for durable-press fabrics), and air fluff. Air fluff is a no-heat cycle for drying fabrics that can't handle heat, or for freshening pillows, bedspreads, and draperies. After each load, the dryer lint filter should be cleaned. Lint buildup can increase drying time by limiting airflow. See Fig. 15-7. To prevent a fire hazard, remove any gradual lint buildup in dryer pipes and vents at the rear of the dryer.

## Irons and Ironing Boards

To remove wrinkles from garments, you'll need an iron and ironing board. Most irons have a dial or control button with temperature settings for different fibers. See Fig. 15-8. Cotton, linen, wool, and rayon are usually marked. Acetate, nylon, silk, and polyester might be too.

**15-8** Some irons have more settings and features than others, which affects cost. You'll want different temperature settings and probably the ability to use steam. When choosing an iron to buy, also consider its weight and the design of the handle for comfortable use.



**15-5** Top-loading washing machines have been in use for many years. The motion of the agitator pulls the clothes through the water, which enables the detergent to work into the fabric.

## Fashion

**NO LAUNDRY DAYS.** Washing clothes was of less concern to people in times past. In the Middle Ages, farmers, blacksmiths, and other laborers washed only their underclothes. Outer clothes apparently were deodorized by exposure to the scent and chemicals released in wood smoke, which was common in the days before the discovery of electricity. In the late 1500s, wealthier classes sometimes solved the problem of laundering by giving away their used clothing, often to poorer people or theater troupes.

## LAUNDERING CLOTHES

Laundering may not seem like fun, but compared to a bucket and a washboard, it's not that bad. **Laundering** means washing fabric by hand or machine with a soil-removing product. You can keep your clothes in good condition longer by following the simple laundering guidelines in this section.

### Sorting Clothes

Before laundering, resist the temptation to throw everything together in one load. Some clothes wash safely together, but others don't. Therefore, sort clothes before you begin. Read the care labels for recommended procedures. Then you can sort clothes by color, amount of soil, and fabric type. See Fig. 15-9.

First, separate the clothes by color. To prevent any bleeding of colored dyes, all dark colors should be washed together. Many white fabrics, especially those made from manufactured fibers, will pick up color, even from colorfast fabrics.

**15-9** If you don't sort clothes before laundering, the color from one garment could run another. Minimally, your white and light-colored clothing will become dingier.



White fabrics may become dull and gray after repeated washings with colored garments, so wash them separately.

Next, consider the amount of soil on the garments. Heavily soiled work and play clothes should be washed separately. They need a longer wash cycle and can dull lightly soiled items that pick up extra soil from the wash water.

Finally, consider the fabrics in the laundry. Some fabrics, such as white cotton socks and underwear, require hot water and a long wash cycle. Washable wools and fabrics with dark colors need cold water and a short wash cycle to prevent fading or shrinking. Durable-press fabrics need special treatment to minimize wrinkling. Keep delicate fabrics separate so heavier items don't cause them to tangle and tear. Fabrics that create lint, such as terrycloth towels and fuzzy sweatshirts, shouldn't be washed with fabrics that might attract lint, such as corduroy, velveteen, and durable-press finishes. You can turn lint-producing fabrics inside out to keep other fabrics from picking up lint.

After sorting, you may have several stacks: dark colors, light colors, whites, and towels. Create a special pile for items to hand-wash.

### Pretreating

While sorting clothes, set aside any garments with stains that need special attention. Refer to the stain removal chart on Pages 254-255.

Pretreat heavy soil on collars and cuffs with a liquid detergent, a paste of powder detergent and water, or a prewash soil-and-stain remover. Rub into the stained area; then wait one to five minutes before laundering.

Soaking fabrics in water for up to 30 minutes helps to dissolve many stains and remove excess soil and mud. Adding an enzyme presoak or

laundry detergent can aid stain removal. Use warm water for oily stains and cold water for such protein stains as blood, eggs, and grass.

### Machine Washing

If you simply throw dirty clothes into the machine, pick any water temperature, and dump the detergent on top, the outcome may be disappointing. There's actually more to laundering, but over time, the steps become automatic.

### Loading the Machine

Before loading the machine, be sure all pockets are empty. Tissues, lipstick, crayons, and ballpoint pens can create lint or permanently stain fabrics. Close zippers and fasten hooks and eyes to prevent snagging clothes in the wash. Unfold sheets and towels. Small items can be placed in a zippered mesh bag to prevent tangling.

Add detergent according to the machine's manual and the directions on the box or bottle. If fabrics allow, you can add bleach and/or fabric softener.

Avoid overloading the machine. Items must move freely for good cleaning and rinsing action and to keep them from wrinkling. For best results, distribute the fabrics evenly around the agitator in machines that have one. See Fig. 15-10.



**15-10** If items in a top-loading machine become unevenly placed, they can cause the machine to shake, rattle, and roll during the spin cycle. Open the lid and redistribute the items. Loading carefully can help prevent this from happening.

### 15-11 • Washing and Rinsing Temperatures

FABRIC	WASHING TEMPERATURE	RINSING TEMPERATURE
Most washable fabrics, including col- lons and linens, but not durable press, wools, and delicates.	Cold or warm for presoaking. Cold for bright colors, darks, and lightly soiled fabrics. Warm for colors and moderately soiled fabrics. Hot for white and heavily soiled fabrics.	Cold or warm.
Durable-press fabrics.	Hot for whites and heavily soiled fabrics. Warm for everything else.	Cold.
Delicate fabrics, including lingerie, sweater and lace fabrics, and loose knits.	Cold for bright colors. Warm for everything else.	Cold or warm.
Hand-washable fabrics, including wools and embroidery.	Cold or warm.	Cold or warm.

Mix small items with large items to provide good washing action as the garments rotate in the machine.

#### Water Temperature and Level

Depending on the fabric, water temperatures for washing range from varying levels of cold to hot. Follow the directions on the care label of the garments to select the proper water temperature. See Fig. 15-11.

Hot water (120°–140°F; 49°–60°C) cleans fabric the best and offers sanitizing benefits. Water that's too hot, however, can shrink some fabrics. Warm water (85°–105°F; 29°–41°C) is recommended for many fabrics, especially those with manufactured fibers and durable-press finishes. Cold water (65°–75°F; 18°–24°C) doesn't have much cleaning power, but it saves energy and can be used for delicate fabrics and lightly soiled clothes.

For most machines, you can adjust the water level according to the size of the wash load. If you're not washing a full load, select a lower level.

#### Wash Cycle

Before washing, choose the settings you want for the wash cycle. Basic machines have only a few settings, as shown in Fig. 15-12, but some machines have many.

• **Cycle type.** Wash cycles are programmed for different lengths of time, agitation speeds,

**15-13** Hand washing is recommended for woolsens, silks, and other delicate fabrics. Soak the garment, gently squeeze to clean, and rinse. What are the final steps?



- **Rinse temperature.** You may be able to choose a different rinse temperature, warm or cold. A cold rinse helps prevent wrinkles during spinning. This is useful for easy-care and wrinkle-free fabrics.

#### Hand Washing

Hand washing is recommended for many woolsens, silks, and other delicate fabrics. Items that need separate handling might also be hand-washed. See Fig. 15-13. If possible, wash only one or two items together at a time. The care label tells the water temperature to use.

To begin, pretreat any spots and stains. Then add the laundry product to the water and swish until dissolved. Place the garment in the water and gently squeeze to clean. To remove stains, you can soak the item for 15 minutes or longer. Heavily soiled areas may need rubbing between your fingers to remove soil. Don't scrub or wring delicate fabrics.

To finish hand washing, rinse the garment in cool or cold water several times until the water is clear. Then roll it in an absorbent towel to remove as much water as possible.

## DRYING CLOTHES

Some clothes can be dried by machine. Others should be hung up or laid flat to air dry. Always check the care label for drying instructions.

### Machine Drying

Automatic dryers usually have temperature and cycle settings to select. Again, fabric determines what you choose. Manufactured fibers, which are more heat-sensitive, should be tumble-dried at a lower temperature than cotton or linen. Heavier fabrics, such as denim and terrycloth, take longer to dry than lightweight fabrics. The cool-down time at the end of the permanent-press cycle uses no heat, which reduces wrinkling of durable-press fabrics.

The air-fluff cycle dries without heat. Since vinyls, plastics, laminates, and some wools can't take heat, air fluff is a good choice for them.

Before putting damp clothes in the dryer, loosen them by shaking. Don't overload the dryer, because this slows down drying time, increases wrinkling, and decreases fluffiness. One washer load in the dryer at a time is best. Avoid tumble-drying fabrics that produce lint with other fabrics.

To prevent wrinkles and damage to fabric, try not to overdry garments. Fewer wrinkles occur if you fold clothes neatly or hang them on hangers when still warm. Remove and hang durable-press fabrics as soon as the dryer stops. See Fig. 15-14 on page 276. Elastic bands in shorts and socks should feel slightly damp when first taken from the dryer. All clothes, however, should be completely dry before putting them away in a closet or drawer. This prevents mildew from forming.

### Line Drying and Flat Drying

If a garment is labeled "line dry" or "dry flat," you shouldn't put it in the dryer. The fabric may shrink or stretch out of shape.

To line-dry clothes, hang them while still damp. First, shake out each item and smooth wrinkles by hand. On an outdoor clothesline, place clothespins where they won't leave marks on the garments. If you're drying clothes indoors,



**15-14** The durable-press setting on a dryer often buzzes several times before the dryer stops. This gives you time to remove and hang garments, which prevents wrinkles and ironing.

hang them on plastic hangers, because wire hangers may leave rust marks. Hang clothes where the air can circulate around them. Many people use the bathroom shower rod. See Fig. 15-15. A portable drying rack is another convenient way to line-dry clothes indoors.

For garments that stretch out of shape when hung to dry, including sweaters and many knit garments, dry them flat. Remove as much moisture as possible. To do this, place the garment on top of a clean, dry towel and smooth it out. Roll the garment and towel together. Then press the roll with your hands to transfer moisture to the towel. Next, spread a clean, dry towel on a large, flat surface that can withstand moisture. Remove the garment from the roll and lay it on the dry towel, patting the garment into shape. Leave it there until thoroughly dry.

Special racks for drying clothes that can speed the drying time. These plastic screens are stretched onto a frame supported by short legs. Air circulates under and over the garment for faster drying.

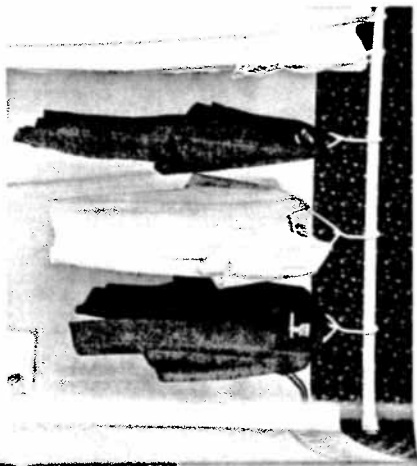
### IRONING CLOTHES

With heat, moisture, and slight pressure, ironing removes wrinkles from clothes. The iron moves back and forth in a gliding motion. To avoid stretching fabric, always iron in the lengthwise or crosswise direction of the fabric.

How much ironing will you need to do? That depends on the fabrics in your wardrobe. Most knits and durable-press fabrics, such as polyester/cotton, need little or no ironing. Fabrics that wrinkle, such as linen, cotton, silk, and rayon, usually need ironing.

When ironing, select a temperature that matches the fiber content of your fabric. Cottons and linens can be pressed at higher temperatures than manufactured fibers. For blended fabrics, select the setting for the most heat-sensitive fiber in the blend. If you're not sure what setting to use,

**15-15** Plastic hangers placed on a bathroom shower curtain rod provide a good way to dry clothes that can't go in the dryer. Why do these garments need to hang without touching each other?



## HOW TO IRON A SHIRT

How easy is ironing a shirt? With a plan in mind, you can do the job without adding more wrinkles than you remove. The secret is to follow certain steps—in order.

1. **Collar.** Start with the collar. Iron both ends; then move toward the center of the collar. Smooth out creases and puckers as you iron.
2. **Yoke.** Place the back of one shoulder over the narrow end of the ironing board. Smooth flat and iron. Repeat for the other shoulder.
3. **Cuffs and sleeves.** Iron the inner side of one cuff, then the outer side, smoothing out any puckers. Lay the sleeve flat on the ironing board, with the sleeve seam at the edge of the sleeve. Press one side, turn the sleeve over, and press the other side. Repeat for the other cuff and sleeve.
4. **Placket.** Press the button and buttonhole areas, without ironing over the buttons. Most irons have an indentation on each side of the point. These allow the iron to go around the buttons as it smooths the fabric underneath.
5. **Shirt body.** Place the right side of the shirtfront on the ironing board with the shoulder portion over the narrow end of the board. Smooth flat and iron. Move the shirt away from you to the next section to be ironed. Continue until the entire shirt is ironed.
6. **Inspection.** Hold the shirt up. How does it look? If needed, touch up any missed areas. Then place the shirt on a hanger and button the top button.



### Exploring Ironing

Locate or create your own technique for ironing a pair of pants. Demonstrate this for the class and compare your method to those used by classmates.

start with a low temperature. Increase the temperature gradually to keep from damaging the fabric.

To avoid putting a shine on a fabric's right side, iron on the wrong side. If you must work on the right side, always press gently or use a press cloth.

To use moisture settings, choose dry (no steam) for fabrics that take a low iron temperature. These fabrics include the delicate ones, such as acetate, silk, and polyester. Choose the steam setting for fabrics that need a higher temperature to remove wrinkles. Linen, cotton, and wool are examples.

When ironing with steam, wait until the iron has reached the proper temperature. A light may indicate readiness. Don't overflow the water supply area. With too much water, the iron may spit and put spots on your clothes. If your iron has a spray button, push it when needed to add moisture to stubborn wrinkles. If your iron doesn't supply steam or spray, cover the fabric with a damp press cloth.

When ironing several items, start with those that take a lower temperature. On each garment, begin with small detail areas. Then iron the major parts of the garment. Work carefully, ironing small sections at a time, as shown on page 277.

## DRY-CLEANING CLOTHES

The dry-cleaning process uses special liquids containing organic solvents to clean fabrics without water. A solvent is a substance that dissolves another substance. Dry cleaning can be done by a professional dry cleaner or in a coin-operated machine. To dry-clean at home with your own dryer, follow the guidelines on page 279.

### Professional Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaners have special cleaning products for removing some stains that you can't. Always point out any stains—and their cause, if possible—to the dry cleaner. See Fig. 15-16. If you know a stained garment will be dry-cleaned, don't try to remove the stain yourself. You might use something that later reacts with the dry-cleaning solvents and permanently sets the stain.

Dry-cleaning solvents can damage some buttons and trims. Discuss this with the dry cleaner. If the cleaner decides to remove the items, they will be replaced after cleaning.

When clothing is professionally dry-cleaned, items are separated by light or dark colors and by delicacy of fabric. Separate loads are placed into machines that resemble an automatic washer. While the clothes rotate, the solvent releases and gradually removes the soil. Then the solvent is spun away, and the clothing is tumbled or air-dried until all traces of the solvent are gone.

Steam pressing takes out wrinkles, smooths seams, and restores creases and pleats. Some garments are placed over form finishers, mannequin-like forms that allow steam from the inside to permeate the garment and remove wrinkles. Special hand irons and steam presses do other pressing.

Some professional dry cleaners do minor repairs and alterations. Learning to sew on but-

**TESTING** Knowing what solvents to use for removal. Try to give that information if you can.



## Trends in TECHNOLOGY

To save on dry-cleaning expenses, many people today buy dry-cleaning kits to use in home dryers. Each kit includes several premoistened cloths and a reusable bag that holds the clothes.

These kits will clean lightly soiled clothes and freshen and deodorize items. They work best on wool, rayon, silk, linen, and cotton knit fabrics and aren't recommended for leather, suede, acetate, and satin. In addition to clothes, they can be used on scarves, gloves, throw pillows, small blankets, and stuffed animals. Follow the instructions carefully at each step.

Before cleaning, visible stains must be completely removed. Stain removal materials come with the kit. Always test for colorfastness on a hidden area of the garment. For heavy stains and ground-in soil, professional dry cleaning is recommended.



## >>DRY CLEANING AT HOME

So items can tumble freely, the bag should be only three-fourths full—no more than four garments. Fasten buttons and zippers. Garments with perspiration odors should be turned inside out. Place the premoistened cloth in the bag with the clothes. Then seal the bag and place it in the dryer. Tumble dry for 20 minutes on the low or permanent-press setting. For light freshening, tumble dry for 10 minutes.

As the bag tumbles, the heat-activated cloth releases biodegradable cleaning and freshening ingredients that permeate the fabrics. The controlled humidity within the bag helps prevent wrinkling.

While the garments are still warm, remove them from the dryer. Promptly shake them out and place on hangers. Pressing may be needed.

### INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY

Survey three people who have used home dry-cleaning kits. Prepare a list of questions to ask about brands, costs, results, and suggestions. Present your conclusions to the class.

tons and alter hems yourself, however, saves the expense. ■ (see p 530, p 537)

### Coin-Operated Dry Cleaning

Coin-operated dry cleaning is faster and costless than professional dry cleaning. Although the machines remove most soil, the clothes don't get special spot removal or pressing.

Some laundries offer a dry-cleaning service. After clothes are weighed, you pay by the pound. An attendant puts the clothes in the machine and hangs them up when done. If you point out stains, they will be treated before cleaning. If clothes are put on hangers while still warm, many wrinkles fall out. Professional pressing, however, gives garments a crispier finish.

## CHAPTER 15

## Review

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

- Choosing the right laundry products helps make washing clothes easier and more effective.
- The fabrics, the type of stains, and washing machine you use determine which laundry product you need.
- Adjustable settings on washers, dryers, and other laundry equipment allow you to tailor their use to your needs.
- Clothes should be sorted for washing by color, amount of soil, and fabric.
- Clothes can also be washed by hand and dried on a line or rack.
- Dry cleaning may be the best option for some garments.

## USING KEY TERMS

With a partner, take turns giving one fact about each Key Term.



## RECALLING THE FACTS

1. Why are detergents better than soaps for laundering?
2. What are two advantages of using an ultra detergent?
3. Is a high-foaming detergent a better product? Explain.
4. Describe four other laundering products beside detergents.
5. Compare the two basic types of washing machines.
6. Why should lint be removed from a dryer's filter, pipe, and vents?
7. Explain how to use an iron safely.
8. What can happen if a white dress shirt is washed with a pair of jeans that was worn to weed the garden?
9. To prevent a laundering mishap, what should you do to a fleecy sweat jacket with pockets before washing?
10. In what ways can a wash cycle be adjusted for a particular load of laundry?
11. What steps can you take when machine drying to help clothes look their best?
12. How can you help garments keep their shape when drying flat?
13. How is an iron setting different for silk and cotton shirts?
14. How does dry cleaning remove stains without water?

## and Activities

## THINKING CRITICALLY

1. A friend believes that when it comes to laundry detergent, "if some is good, then more is better." What do you think of this reasoning?
2. How would you decide what laundering methods to use if a garment's care label is missing?
3. Suppose someone washes all clothes in cold water, regardless of care label recommendations, in order to save on energy bills. Is this person necessarily saving money? Why or why not?

## APPLYING KNOWLEDGE

1. **Detergent ingredients.** Using empty laundry detergent containers, work with a few classmates to identify the purposes of listed ingredients and the meaning of such terms as antibacterial and phosphates. Use a dictionary, encyclopedia, science text, the Internet, and other references as needed. Report what you learn to the class.
2. **Environmental Impact.** Locate a detergent designed to be environmentally safe. Analyze the ingredients. Why is the product considered "earth friendly"? Conduct an experiment to compare the cleaning ability of this detergent to a standard brand.
3. **Consumer research.** In a consumer magazine, find an article that compares different brands of laundry products or laundering equipment, such as washing machines, dryers, or irons. Study the

researchers' methods and findings. Based on their results, which product or equipment brand do you think is the best buy? Why? Write a report of your conclusions.

4. **Laundry site.** Create a home page and several content pages for a Web site that contains information and tips on how to launder and dry clothes. Include specific facts on the content pages.
5. **Ironing and pressing.** Demonstrate the difference between ironing and pressing for the class. Include safety principles.
6. **Home dry cleaning.** Using a home dry-cleaning kit, demonstrate its use for the class.

## CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

A cousin who is away at college uses the coin-operated washing machines in her dormitory. She usually launders all of her clothes in one load, though she knows that washing garments separately would give better results. She says: "If I sorted and washed everything the way I know I'm supposed to, I'd have three or four half-loads every week. I can't see spending the time and money and using all that energy."

## Think Creatively

How can your cousin give her clothes the recommended care while avoiding the problems she mentions?