

## **AFTER THE STORM (1)**

**If your clothes became wet after Hurricane Wilma there are specific steps you should take to prevent mildew. Mildew is a fungus that forms in the presence of warmth, dampness, darkness and lack of fresh air. It can be found in many colors but most commonly brown, tan, yellow and black. It has an unpleasant and musty odor.**

### **WET GARMENTS**

**When garments are wet they should be hung outside in sunlight to dry. You do not want to shake garments inside your house since you may spread mildew spores that can be present in the fabric. The ultra-violet rays of sunlight and fresh air will reduce the incidence of the formulation of mildew. When garments are dry they should be brushed outside the home to remove any surface mildew spores. Be careful not to breathe in or have contact with the mildew spores.**

### **WASHING**

**When mildew has not penetrated the fabric a routine washing will remove the mildew. Use the hottest water temperature possible for your fabric. The use of a safety bleach and household ammonia is also effective. When drying use the highest temperature allowed for your fabric. If mildew has penetrated the fabric and caused staining the only bleach that is effective is sodium hypochlorite or household bleach. This bleach however can not be used on wool, silk and most colored fabrics. Test before using. Heavily stained areas can be bleached with a Clorox Bleach Pen or concentrated liquid bleach (1 part bleach and 4 parts water). When washing, add 2 cups of bleach to your washer with a mild detergent. Do not use household bleach with ammonia or any color safe bleach. After washing with household bleach make sure you use vinegar in the rinse water to remove last traces of the bleach. Dry using the hottest water temperature allowed for the fabric.**

### **DRYCLEANING (PERCHLORETHYLENE)**

**When bringing your clothes into the drycleaner they should be packed in a plastic bag. It is important to make sure that the cleaner uses perchlorethylene solvent. Some cleaners use other solvents such as hydrocarbon, petroleum or silicone based which are not effective in removing or destroying mildew.**

### **UNPLEASANT ODOR**

**If mildew has formed in your home only an expert can remove it. A dank or musty odor can be eliminated by trying the following:**

- (1) Citrus fruits-Cut up some oranges or grapefruit and leave them exposed in your home. It will absorb unpleasant odor and give a nice scent.**

**(2) Lysol spray-Many professional cleaners use Lysol spray to remove unpleasant odor. Spray this in your home and even on a garment with an unpleasant odor.**