

## **HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR YOUR SILKS (PART II) (46)**

**It is a common belief that cleaning your silk shortens the life of the garment. This is not true since proper cleaning extends the life of your silk by removing staining and pollutants that can degrade the silk. Chloride salts found in perspiration, deodorants, foods and many beverages can cause the silk to deteriorate. Alcohol stains can oxidize causing color loss.**

### **SPOT REMOVAL**

**When attempting to remove stains from the silk work from the reverse side of the fabric. Blot and dab during attempted stain removal since rubbing will chafe the fiber resulting in color loss. Never use ammonia, alcohol or household bleach. Test color before attempting spot removal.**

### **WHAT SILKS CAN BE WASHED**

**In evaluating whether to wash your silk or not the garment construction and color is the primary factor. If the silk is constructed with lining, padding and trimming ironing becomes a problem and the silk should be drycleaned. If the colors are bright and vivid there is the possibility of dye bleeding and color loss. Silk crepe should never be washed since the highly twisted yarns tend to shrink.**

### **TESTING COLORS FOR WASHING**

**Dampen a towel with water and a mild detergent. Dab an unexposed area of the garment. Observe the towel for dye transfer.**

### **HOW TO WASH**

#### **Preparation:**

- (1) Tide-use a detergent similar to Tide because it does not contain alkali or bleach.**
- (2) Household vinegar-vinegar is a product used to set colors and avoid dye loss on your silk.**
- (3) Fabric softener-use a fabric softener such as Snuggle which is necessary to prepare the silk for ironing. This helps reduce wrinkling and makes it easier to press your silk.**

### **HAND WASHING**

- (1) Use water temperatures of 100oF.**
- (2) Add detergent and vinegar (1-2 ounces per gallon of water)**

(2)

- (3) Agitate gently.
- (4) Rinse and add fabric softener.
- (5) Extract

### **DRYING**

**The drying process is necessary to remove wrinkles and prepare the silk for ironing. If you hang the silk up to dry it will become stiff and boardy.**

- (1) Place in a warm dryer for 2-3 minutes.
- (2) Use cool dry for 2-3 minutes.
- (3) Remove 90% dry or slightly damp.

### **IRONING**

**Set your ironing temperature for silk. Iron from the back of the fabric. If you have to wet the fabric spray water up towards the ceiling and allow the moisture to fall back on the fabric. This prevents water spotting. When pressing the collar, press half the collar from right to left and then half the collar from left to right. This will avoid pinch marks which is frequently caused by excess fabric on the collar.**