

PROFESSIONAL DRYING (70)

If you dry clothes properly they will be able to be ironed easier and have a better feel and look. Hanging a garment up to dry results in a stiff feel with difficulty in ironing. Garments that dried too long with excessive heat will result in shrinkage and hard to remove wrinkles and creases. On some fabrics such as acetate, polyester and nylon these wrinkles will be impossible to remove. The first thing you want to make sure is that your dryer is working properly. Make sure that the lint screen is clean and it is also advisable to have the dryer stack cleaned every so often. Accumulation of lint reduces the efficiency of the dryer. The following are major factors that you want to concentrate on in drying.

90% Moisture Content

The professional drycleaner uses sophisticated dryers that have sensors to measure moisture content in fabrics. The homemaker will have to rely upon feel to obtain proper drying. A 90% moisture content in fabrics gives the ideal conditioning to a fabric for proper ironing. When you dry clothes you must stop the dryer every so often and feel the fabrics. The fabric is properly dried when the outside feels dry and the seams and pockets are slightly damp. When you reach this end point you can jot down the time it took and have this information for the future. You should also bear in mind that different fabrics might reach 90% dry quicker than others. For example polyester and nylon will dry much faster than cotton and linen. Once you have achieved the proper drying the fabric will iron easier and feel and look much better.

HEAT

Proper heat is important when drying fabrics. Heat will start to damage a fabric only when the fabric is totally dry. What this means is that as fabrics dry they evaporate moisture which creates a cooling effect. The fabric is therefore cool until moisture is completely evaporated from the fabric. You do not dry past the 90% moisture content. Polyesters, nylon, acetate and acrylic should never be dried on a high temperature setting.

COOLING

Fabrics after properly dried 90% should be run on a 3 minute cool down. The cool down process is necessary to help remove wrinkles. Remove clothes from the dryer as quickly as possible.