

PROFESSIONAL IRONING TIPS (71)

The ironing or finishing of a garment is as important as stain removal. I have been instructing drycleaners on proper finishing techniques for 35 years and feel the homemaker can utilize some of these tips to make their own garments presentable. Improper finishing can not only ruin some fabrics but also detract from the overall appearance of the garment.

.....Proper Washing-a garment should be washed according to the delicacy of the fabric. A liquid fabric softener will condition the garment for proper finishing. Snuggle is one of the best products to use in the wash. Liquid fabric softeners are better than the fabric softener sheets. A garment that is simply washed with a detergent and rinsed can not be pressed as well as one that has a softener added to it.

.....Proper Drying-Over drying fabrics causes excessive wrinkling and hard to remove wrinkles. Garments should be pulled out of the dryer 90% dry which means the seams are slightly damp.

.....Silks-Do not spray water directly on a silk to wet the fabric as this can cause water spots. Aim a water spray upward and allow the moisture to fall on the fabric.Double Creases-Never change the front crease of a garment as this will leave double creases. If a double crease does occur, lay fabric flat and iron out both creases. The remaining crease is the correct one.

.....Iron Temperature-A warm iron setting should be used on all heat sensitive plastic fabrics. This includes polyester, nylon, acrylic and acetate.

.....Starch-If a spray starch is needed use the product "Niagara". Most professional cleaners use it. Remember to spray the starch upward and let it fall on the fabric.

.....Shine-To avoid shine on gabardine and other fabrics use a press cloth over the fabric and only use light ironing pressure, especially on seam areas and areas of double thickness.

.....Removing Shine-Spray with a household vinegar and hang to dry.

.....Forming a new Crease-Match up the bottom seam and also the top crotch seam.

.....Leather and Suede-Use a warm iron only and no steam. Make sure skin is not wet or damp when ironing.

.....Pleats-If you want to pleat a skirt or dress the pleats can be held in place by straight pins. Put the pins on the inside of the pleat on the hemline so the pleats will not show.

.....Collar-The collar area may have excess fabric and hand ironing may cause a pinch mark. To avoid this, iron the collar from left to right up to the center of the collar, and then iron from right to left up to the center of the collar.

.....Sleeves-Do not crease sleeves. Press the center of the sleeves without creasing the edges. Rotate the sleeves so all areas are touched up.