

PROTECTING DELICATE GARMENTS AND TRIMMINGS WHEN WASHING (87)

The professional drycleaner takes precautions when drycleaning or wetcleaning garments to prevent damage. These same precautions can be used when washing garments. Very often manufacturers use trimmings, buttons and delicate construction for wearing apparel but disregard the serviceability in washing.

- (1) Net bags-Any supermarket sells nylon net bags or you can ask your local drycleaner to sell one to you. These are bags that are used to prevent damage to the garment or trimmings on the garment. You can put loose knits, garments with thin and delicate yarns or trimmed garments in the bag. It prevents the yarn from being snagged or damaged. It also prevents the trimming from being damaged or rubbing against other garments and causing damage. Loose knits are stabilized and will not stretch out of shape in a net bag.**
- (2) Aluminum foil-There is buttons, buckles or other trimming that can chip or become damaged in washing and drying. It is a simple thing to cover these trimmings with aluminum foil before washing. Professional drycleaners commonly use aluminum foil to protect garments when drycleaning.**
- (3) Shoulder pads-A common complaint is shoulder pads becoming distorted and misshapen in washing. To prevent damage pin the 4 corners of the shoulder pad to the garment or fold shoulder pad in half and put a safety pin through it. This will stabilize the shoulder pads and prevent it from being damaged.**
- (4) Inside out-There is several garments that are better washed inside out. This includes jeans and dark cottons. Washing these garments inside out will reduce color loss from dye crocking and rubbing. Satin fabrics should also be washed inside out to prevent chafing of the surface yarns.**
- (5) Zipper up-The zippers on all garments should be closed. This will reduce damage to the zipper.**
- (6) Button up-Jackets and sweaters should be buttoned up to prevent stretching and loss of shape.**
- (7) Rhinestone buttons-There is buttons with small rhinestones glued in. During washing the small rhinestone inserts loosen and become dislodged from the buttons. Covering with aluminum foil and coating the button with a clear nail polish will help prevent damage.**
- (8) Suede trimming-If you have a garment with a suede or other trimming that may bleed cover the trimming by pinning a cloth over the trimming. This will reduce the chance of bleeding from the trimming.**
- (9) Sharp buckles-A loose sharp buckle on a garment can cause damage to other garments in the washing machine. Wrap a cloth around the buckle and then pin the buckle to the garment to prevent damage to other garments.**