

## **TAKING THE WRINKLES OUT OF WRINKLING (103)**

**Wrinkling is the creases and brakes in fabrics that cause people to spend time ironing or taking their garment to a professional drycleaner. If I am going on a trip and packing a suitcase I should chose those fabrics that resist wrinkling when unpacking. There are many factors that cause fabrics to wrinkle.**

- (1) Fiber Content-Fabrics that are prone to wrinkling are cotton, rayon, wool and silk. They wrinkle easily because they absorb moisture readily. For example dry cotton will retain its shape or be stabilized at 120oF. It means it will not wrinkle except if it is subjected to higher temperatures. If I wet it, it will wrinkle at a much lower temperature. The same goes for the other aforementioned fabrics. Fabrics such as nylon, polyester, acetate and acrylic are plastic in nature and do not readily absorb moisture. This means that these fabrics will resist wrinkling unless heated to a very high temperature.**
- (2) Weave-A thick weave and knit fabric wrinkles less than a tight weave with thin yarns. A cotton knit shirt will wrinkle less than a tightly woven cotton and wool knit fabrics wrinkle less than worsted wool.**
- (3) Blends-If I blend a natural fabric with a plastic fabric it limits wrinkling. This why a cotton and polyester blended shirt wrinkles less than pure cotton.**
- (4) Heat-If fabrics are subjected to excessive heat they will wrinkle. Excessive heat can cause permanent wrinkles on plastic fabrics such as nylon, polyester, acetate and acrylic.**

### **THE WRINKLE TEST**

**If you are packing a suitcase and want to test whether a fabric wrinkles easily, grab a lower edge of the hem and crush it between your fingers. Release and judge the degree of wrinkling resulting.**

### **PROPER WASHING TO AVOID WRINKLING**

**When washing fabrics use a cold or warm water setting. Do not overload the washing machine. Use a fabric softener in the rinse cycle. Fabric softeners will lubricate the fabric and reduce wrinkling when garments are dried. Do not leave the fabrics lying wet in the washing machine for a long period of time.**

### **PROPER DRYING (90% DRY)**

**After washing fabrics they must be dried properly. This means that the dryer should be set on a permanent press cycle with low heat. If you can time the drying and remove the fabrics before totally dry you would greatly reduce wrinkling. The proper drying time means the fabrics are dry to the touch but the seams and thick areas are slightly damp. The garments are then removed immediately and hung or properly folded. Any wrinkles can usually be smoothed out with your hands. When**

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**you dry garments too long using a hot temperature or leave lying in a dryer, excessive wrinkling will occur.**