



## UNIT X CARE OF CLOTHES

### NOTES

**Cleaning and finishing:** Human beings need to wear clean clothes so that their clothes may not shelter germs and dust. Clothes get too dirty and bad odour comes out of them if they are not washed for a long period. To make clothes clean it is necessary to wash properly.

**Laundry equipments:** Galvanized iron boiler is used for boiling table clothes, to disinfect bed linen and to preserve their whiteness. Enamel bowls and basins can be used for washing silk and wool. Spoons and containers are used for preparing starch and blues. Scrubbing boards may be used instead of traditional way of beating the clothes. A suction washer may be used for washing clothes.

Drying clothes is done on the drying line made of plastic, jute or cotton rope or galvanized wire at the outdoor space. Some clothes are also dry washed with dry cleaning pump which are not affordable for all. Ironing of washed clothes by electric iron or charcoal iron is done for giving the finishing touch.

**Washing and cleaning agents in laundry:** Soft and clean water with cleaning agents like soap, soap solution, soap jelly, washing powder, sulphonated fatty alcohols, petro-chemicals (tinopal), soap flakes, Rita nut, Shikakai, bran solution etc. are used in laundry.

**Laundry accessories:** Laundry accessories for stiffening and blueing clothes consist of rice starch, gum arabic and blue. All the clothes which are washing do not require stiffening agents and blueing. Starch is generally used as a stiffening agent for cotton and linen fabrics. Gum arabic is used in place of starch for silk and rayon fabrics and blueing is used in the last rinse for bleached cotton and linen.

**Stain removal:** Clothes used continuously may have stains or marks. Stain is a spot or mark of discoloration left on fabrics by the contact and absorption of some foreign matter. Some stains can be removed easily by ordinary methods while some others need special treatment.



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Stains may be classified as animal, vegetable, grease, dye and mineral. Animal stains are caused by blood, egg, milk and meat juice that contains protein matter and as such heat must be avoided in removing them.

Vegetable stains are caused by tea, cocoa, coffee, fruit and wine are acidic and alkaline agents are required for removing them.

Grease stains may be caused by grease, butter, curry, oil paint, varnish and tar stains. Some grease solvents and an absorbent is first used to dissolve grease before the removal of the colouring matter.

Dye stains may be acidic or alkaline and so, the nature of the stain is to be ascertained before a specific removing reagent is used.

Mineral stains such as iron, mould, black ink and certain medicine stains are compounds of a metal or a dye. These are first treated by acid reagents to act on the metal, and then by an alkaline solution to neutralise the acid reagent and act on the dye.

**Washing and finishing of cotton, silk, wool and synthetic fabrics:** Washing and finishing of cotton, silk, wool and synthetic fabrics can be done in different ways. But it must be examined first if any of the clothes has stain marks or discoloration on them. The stained marks are to be removed before the washing process starts. If the spotted marks are not removed before washing, it becomes permanent.

**Storage of clothes:** Clothes and dresses are to be stored properly and in safe places. Too dirty clothes should not be stored for a long time so that they may be reusable after washing. Clothes which are not used regularly should be stored smoothly and carefully. If clothes are kept without exposing to the air during the monsoon, they will get damp and will be attacked by mildew which will eat away the surface of the cloth and leather. Repellents like tobacco, dry neem leaves, naphthalene balls, odonils and camphor can be used in the storage area. Woollen clothes may be wrapped with newspapers as moths dislike printed matters.

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