



# ***Spectrum Industrial Cleaner***

## **Laundry Guide For Men**

We at DTW Innovative Solutions, Inc. developed and dedicate this Laundry Guide to you men of the world. It is designed to take the mystery out of doing laundry, whether you are single or married - hopefully it will be informative and useful. Our **Spectrum Concentrate** will safely remove more laundry stains than any single product on the market and is available from our web site **SparkleClean** - shipped to your door for one low price - no hidden charges! Also included, are products that we have used and know the stains they will remove.

### **Washing Machine**

**Get to know that washing machine:** Check out the washing cycles - water temperature and rinse settings on the washer **control panel**. Open the lid - look at the inner workings - check for a **Bleach Dispenser** - **Detergent Diffuser** - **Fabric Softening Diffuser**. Some of the newer washers have a Catalyst cycle, which infuses concentrated detergent into garments, prior to filling, for deep cleaning.

**Front Loaders** use less water - detergent - electricity and agitate by spinning the drum, like a dryer - clothing is tumbled in and out of sudsy water in the bottom of drum. These type machines are reported to be more gentle on clothing due to this tumble action. Larger bulky items, such as bed spreads or comforters are easily handled by these machines - there are no center post obstructions. **Word of caution:** These machines use less detergent than top loaders - read the instructions on your detergent container for the proper amount to be added for High Efficient machines. Too much detergent can cause suds to leak out around door seals!

**Common washer cycles:** Listed below are the more common washer cycles and a brief description of their function.

- A **Normal or Regular Cycle:** Usually provide a wash time of 10-14 minutes with a normal agitation and spin intensity. This is a good cycle for most cottons, linens, work and play clothes. If you are energy conscious, many resources report that a 10 minute cycle is usually sufficient for commonly soiled garments.
- B **Synthetic Cycles (Permanent Press, Knits):** Best for loads of shirts, blouses, dresses, knits and similar wearing apparel with normal soil levels. These cycles usually provide a wash time of 5-10 minutes with an extended **cool-down** spray rinse to minimize wrinkling.
- C **Delicate Cycles:** Used for laundering delicate lingerie, stockings, nylon undergarments, etc. These cycles have a minimal washing time (usually 3-5 minutes) with a gentle agitation and spin intensity.
- D **Extra Rinse Cycles:** To be used with modern fabrics with heavy or oily soil, to help remove additional detergent that is required for these soils and for people that are allergic to available detergents.

# Before You Start

**Separate your colors:** The most basic and fool-proof formula to use for separating clothes is to sort into **four** distinct piles: **whites, lights, darks, and delicates.**

- A **Whites:** Think basic T-shirts, white socks and underwear, sheets, pillowcases, and all the other plain white clothing or linens that you own.
- B **Lights:** These encompasses everything from pastels to striped or patterned white garments. You really can't go wrong with the lights category: if an article of clothing is largely white but contains enough color (logos or writing) to make you doubt your sorting prowess, group it with the lights.
- C **Darks:** Dark socks, dark underwear, and shirts, along with jeans and dark-colored pants. Sometimes, newly purchased dark clothing is too dark or strongly colored for the darks load of laundry and should be washed separately.
- D **Delicates:** Machine wash sweaters, satin, delicate lingerie, stockings, nylon undergarments. Really delicate items, such as stockings, should be washed inside a **Mesh Bag**, to prevent damage. **Note:** Some items are best washed by hand or dry-cleaned. To **hand-wash** clothing, simply fill your bathroom sink with cool water - add a bottle-cap size amount of Woolite®, soak the garments in the foam, rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water - hang or lay on towel on flat surface to dry.

**Check for stains:** Check your garments - **pre treat those stains!** **Spectrum** does a great job of totally removing most stains, including those listed below, before washing. It is best to spray stain, then agitate fabric together. For really tough problems, pour a small amount of detergent directly on the stain and rub it in. **Note:** With dark and red colors, excessive agitation can lighten coloring due to friction, so **go gently!**

- 1 **Spray and Wash® or Shout®:** Both do an adequate job on most stains.
- 2 **Castrol® Super Clean®:** Does a nice job on oily - greasy stains.
- 3 **Windex®:** Removes ball point ink stains and fresh Kool Aid stains.
- 4 **Hydrogen Peroxide:** Removes dried blood - organic type stains.
- 5 **Mild Acid Cleaner:** These type cleaners do a nice job of removing **red clay** or **rust** type stains on clothing. Generally found at local hardware stores.
- 6 **Bleach Cleaning Solutions:** These type cleaners do a nice job on tough stains on whites or light colored clothing - not to be confused with regular bleach.
- 7 **Bar of Soap:** This should remove stains that are caused by **Dryer Softener Sheets** visible on your dark colored clothing after drying. This looks like an oil or grease spot and is caused by softener agent contacting the garment.

**Check those garments:** Prior to adding your clothing to the washer, do yourself a favor and read that garment care tag! These friendly little warnings, phrases such as "Wash with like colors" may help you put things in perspective

- 1 **Check the pockets - pouches:** Make sure they are empty. Many dryers are replaced due to ink pens exploding inside, ruining your clothes and drum.
- 2 **Zippers up:** Close them to prevent possibility of snagging.
- 3 **Inside Out:** Screen printed - embroidered items should be turned inside out prior to washing - this helps protect garment during agitation. This also aids in preventing dryer sheet spots showing on the outside of fabric, when dried.

# Washing

The actual act of washing clothes is very **simple**. After you've gathered all of your materials and done the proper **sorting** and **pre treating**, you're ready to throw the clothes into the machine. The biggest **problems** that people encounter during the wash cycle are that they either:

- 1 **Overload the washer:** You should never have to stuff clothes into a washer... if there's no room inside for more clothes, then there's no room inside for water to reach grimy places. So never fill a washer more than about  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- 2 **Use too much detergent:** As for the detergent, only use the "**full**" measurement if you have a real **heavy load** of towels, jeans, and other "thick" objects. If you're doing a light load of whites and T-shirts, a **half a cup** of detergent is fine. What's wrong with too much detergent? It will ruin your clothes (it's like using too much soap on your skin), and the washing machines may overflow with bubbles.

## Here are some useful tips:

### A **Depending on the type of washing machine:**

- 1 If the washing machine **does not** have a detergent dispenser on top, then you must put the detergent into the machine before you throw in the clothes. Choose your cycle (more on that below), and pour the detergent into the basin as it starts to fill with water. Once the water begins to get nice and sudsy, add your garments a little at a time (distributing the weight evenly) until your full load is inside.
- 2 If it's a newer machine (or one that **has** a detergent dispenser on top), simply load the pile of clothes into the washing machine (making sure the weight is evenly distributed), choose your cycle, pour the detergent into the dispenser. The machine will fill with water and suds before your disbelieving eyes.

B **Whites:** Use a "**hot**" or "**warm**" cycle in which there is a vigorous agitation cycles and warm water rinse. The hot water gets your whites nice and clean, because it doesn't have to worry about draining out colors.

- > **If Chlorine Bleach is needed:** Use the Bleach **Dispenser** on top - **slowly** pour the manufacturer's recommended amount into opening. **Never** pour bleach directly into the washer tub - dilute it at least 4-1, prior to adding.

C **Lights and darks:** Use a "**warm**" or "**permanent press**" cycle which has a more mild agitation cycle and adds an extra cool water rinse. The cool water protects the colors and helps reduce wrinkling.

- > **If Non Chlorine Bleach is needed:** This should be added using the **Detergent Dispenser** or with the detergent as tub is filling.

D **Delicates** (those not being washed by hand): Use a "**delicate**" cycle with an extremely short and gentle agitation spin. This will be a "cold" cycle for both washing and rinsing. It is recommended, that you use a "Mesh Bag" for very delicate items, especially for hose.

E **Fabric Softener:** Softener agents, such as Downey®, may be added to these cycles, reducing dryer static.

- 1 If machine has a **Top Dispenser** - slowly pour recommended amount into cup.
- 2 Use the **Agitator Dispenser** or a **Downey® Ball**, which can be added directly into the washer. The the high speed spin cycle will release the agent into the rinse water. We recommend **diluting** this agent, to prevent spotting.

# Drying

**Get to know that dryer:** Check out the dryer **cycles** - temperature **settings** on the dryer **control panel**. Open the door - look at the inner drum - find the lint screen. Using a lower temperature \ longer cycle time will generally keep you out of trouble.

## Common Dryer Cycles & Temperature Settings:

- A **Regular (Warm / Hot):** These cycles are for drying non-permanent press items such as towels, underwear, jeans, diapers and like clothing.
- B **Permanent Press (Warm):** These cycles are for permanent press and outer wear garments of nylon, acrylic, polyester, and blends of these with other fibers (these garments may be labeled "tumble dry" or "tumble dry-medium"). It is essential to remove these garments from the dryer immediately when tumbling stops since they will become wrinkled if left in the dryer basket. If your dryer has a **cool-down** cycle, take advantage of it to help eliminate shrinkage & wrinkling.
- C **Delicate (Cool):** These cycles are for lingerie, "hand washable" items, machine wash and dry woolens, and those heat sensitive items labeled "tumble dry-low".

## Here are some of our tips:

- 1 **Prepare the dryer:** For optimum performance and **safety**, **clean the lint filter** of your dryer before beginning your load. On a standard dryer, lint filters are found at the base of the door or in the front opening. Just take the screen out, remove all the fuzz from it, and place the clean screen back in its place. Add your **fabric softener dryer sheet**, if using one.
- 2 **Check garment label:** Read the tag for the recommended **drying instructions**.
- 3 **Shake Out:** As you unload your clothes from the washer to the dryer, shake them out a bit to release any excess water and wrinkles.
- 4 **Check Out:** Inspect any stains that you attempted to remove before washing. Heat from the dryer will only **set** stains further - if in doubt **air dry**, then re-wash.
- 5 **Keep like garments together:** A washer load is usually a dryer load - both in size and likeness. Permanent press items should not be dried with towels, and delicate items, such as lingerie should be dried separately. All clothes should be left in the dryer just long enough to remove wrinkles and moisture.
- 6 **Don't overload the dryer:** By shoving in all your clothes at once, the dryer process is greatly hindered and will require more time if you have filled the machine beyond capacity. Also, your clothes will be more wrinkled - smaller loads allow the garment to fluff out.
- 7 **Drying Cycles:** Drying time depends upon the type of dryer you are using. Most require 30 to 40 minutes for complete drying - the effectiveness of your dryer largely determines the amount of time you'll actually need.
- 8 **Avoid Shrinking:** If you leave your clothes in the dryer for too long, they will shrink. Again, **check** the labels for **proper settings**. Your clothes will also shrink if you put a relatively new item made of cotton in the dryer on a high setting.
- 9 **Special Care:** If you have any of those new "**wrinkle-free**" clothes, they need special drying care to maintain their wrinkle-free-ness. **Remove** them from the dryer while they are still **damp** (about 15 minutes before everything else is ready to come out) and put them on a hanger to finish drying.
- 10 **Delicates:** Often, it is best to hang delicates out to dry to avoid ruining the garment with the harsh heat of a dryer.

## Special Dryer Precautions

- A **Keep the lint filter clean and clear:** This will prevent fire-related accidents as well as maintain good air circulation for better drying results. Dryer vent hoses should be **checked** and **cleaned** at least twice a year.
- B **Do not dry:** Woolens, fiberglass fabrics, rubber or plastic coated articles, nor solvent rags - these present a **fire** or **explosion** hazard.
- C **Bath mats and throw rugs:** Those that have rubber backing should be air dried unless the label states that they may be tumble dried. Items containing foam rubber or vinyl must not be dryer dried.

## Folding - Ironing

It's almost done! You're going to want to fold your laundry and hang up certain items, such as dress shirts or blouses. Doing so, will minimize any touch up ironing that may be required. With today's fabric, ironing should be a minimum, with proper handling.

### Here are some of our tips:

- 1 **When dryer stops:** Begin folding, immediately as it makes your clothes less wrinkled. Remove shirts and pants - shake them out to remove minor wrinkles. Lay on flat surface, such as the closed washer top or dryer until folded or hung up.
- 2 **Form Fitting Items:** Never hang sweaters or any article of clothing that is form-fitting for fear that it will take the shape of the hanger, not your shoulder.
- 3 **Linens and synthetics:** To avoid wrinkling, always hang these garments.
- 4 **Jeans, T-shirts, and sweatshirts:** These items can all be folded and stored away in drawers, if you like. Some prefer to hang jeans and sweatshirts
- 5 **Dress and button down shirts:** Unless you have mastered the seven-step crease fold, always hang these type shirts. The chance for wrinkling is too great.
- 6 **Dress Pants:** To minimize wrinkling of these garments, pull out immediately and lay on a flat surface until they are folded and hung up.
  - A **Non creased:** Fold pants in half - pull the crouch area forward and lay on flat surface and smooth out any wrinkles with your hands, then hang on pants type hanger - check for any wrinkles and smooth out with your hand.
  - B **Creased:** Hold pants by the bottom of the legs - gently shake, to smooth out material. Match the inseams together, then fold onto a pants type hanger. Again, check for wrinkles and smooth out with your hand.

All this talk of wrinkles brings us to the dreaded topic of **ironing**. We won't describe how to iron in detail, but keep in mind that nice pants, dress shirts, and other wrinkle-prone items may require some touch up ironing.

### Here are a few tips:

- 1 Read the Care Label for the ironing **procedure** and **temperature** setting to use.
- 2 Iron clothes while they are still **damp**.
- 3 When ironing **double fabrics** such as shirt collars, cuffs, pockets and hems, iron the inside first and then the outside. These areas may require use of steam.
- 4 Hang clothes immediately after ironing to help them keep that "just-pressed" look.

### Hope This Information Has Helped - Soon You Should Be A Pro!

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