

GARMENT CARE ADVICE



Love Your Clothes!

Did you know that following the information on the wash care label can extend the life of your clothing up to 50-80%?

One of the things we can all do to help the environmental impact of fashion is care for our clothes correctly. Lots of garments end up being thrown away or becoming part of our 'inactive wardrobe' because they haven't been looked after in the best way, and a lot of that is down to how little education is available on how to look after your clothes. We want you to be able to enjoy your Collectif pieces, and all of your other clothes, for as long as possible, so we have put together some information to try and help make that happen!

CONTENTS

Wash Care

- Symbols, what do they mean?
- Wash Cycles
- Temperatures

Stains

- Do's and don'ts
- Blood
- Sweat
- Tomato
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Oil

Repairs

- Simple hem fixing
- Taking up a hem
- Patching

Wash Care

scrub-a-dub-dub!



WASH CARE SYMBOLS



Washing Instructions: The most commonly used on our clothing is a regular 30 degree or 40 degree wash. This is measured in Celsius, not Fahrenheit. 30 Celcius converts to 86 Fahrenheit, and 40 Celcius converts to 104 Fahrenheit. The temperature given is a maximum temperature. If you would prefer to wash on a cooler temperature, go for it! A cooler wash is often better for the environment and your bills!



Washing Instruction Symbols

A line underneath the symbol indicates to wash on a delicate setting. We also recommend washing your clothing inside a zipped mesh bag intended for this purpose.



Do Not Wash Symbol

A cross through the washing symbol indicates that this item must not be washed. An alternative method will be suggested, usually dry clean or wipe clean.



Hand Wash Only Symbol

The hand symbol indicates that this item is hand wash only. We recommend hand washing at a cool or warm temperature, with a small amount of delicate detergent. Do not allow the item to soak in water, keep the water moving as much as possible. We recommend avoiding scrubbing motions, and squeezing out excess water without ringing, as this can increase wrinkles.



Bleach Symbol

This symbol is on all of our clothing, and it means Do Not Bleach. Due to the nature of our clothing, we do not recommend adding bleach to the wash, or using a detergent containing bleach.



Tumble Drier Symbol

These symbols mean Tumble Dry or Do Not Tumble Dry. You will find the Do Not Tumble Dry symbol on all of our clothing. We recommend line drying our washable clothing to prevent shrinkage, and preserve the quality of the garments. To prevent stretching on knitted items, you may prefer to dry these items flat.



Iron Symbols

The next symbol on the label relates to ironing. The iron with a cross means **Do Not Iron**. There are some fabrics which are sensitive to heat, including our mesh, velvet, faux fur, and wool fabrics, and other coatings. To prevent melting, do not iron. If your item is creased, you could try hanging the piece in a dry area of the bathroom while taking a steamy shower to encourage the creases to fall out.



This symbol means **Iron on a Cool Setting**. Most irons have a temperature control dial, and we recommend using a cool iron on bengaline, knitwear, and most polyesters.



Lots of our products can be ironed on the **Warm Setting**. Although we recommend trying to remove creases with the cool setting first, any items with this symbol can be ironed on a warmer setting if needed. We always recommend to iron on reverse, to preserve the fabric quality, prevent damage to printed designs, and avoid creating a 'shine'. If you cannot turn the item inside out, a pressing cloth or clean tea towel may be helpful. You could also use a hand steamer.



Dry Cleaning Symbol

This symbol indicates that the item can be dry cleaned, using any solvent except Trichloroethylene. We recommend dry cleaning the majority of our coats and jackets to prolong their life. If you are unsure about the best way to clean an item, please contact our Customer Service team who can advise further.



These symbols mean **Dry Clean** or **Do Not Dry Clean**.

TEMPERATURES

Washing at the correct temperature is essential to ensure the longevity of your clothing. Some fibres will shrink at high temperatures, leaving you with garments that are too small.

Washing on too high a temperature can make some colours unstable, encouraging dye to leak from the fabrics and into the water, which can stain other garments. It can also make your clothing look much older and worn than it really is. Lightweight fabrics can be sensitive to high temperatures, causing damage to the surface of the fabric.

Ironing at the wrong temperature can also be bad for your clothing. Exposing the fibres directly to heat can age the fabric, so we recommend ironing on reverse or using a pressing cloth if this is not an option. An iron that is too hot can also cause the fabric to burn or melt, so ensure to follow the label.

INFO ABOUT WASH LOADS

For environmental reasons, it's always best to wash a full load. However, if the washing machine drum is overfilled, this can result in a less thorough clean as the items will have less room to absorb the detergent. If you're worried about colour runs, especially with items that are prone to bleeding e.g. denim, it's always best to wash a load of similar colours together to avoid damage. Once these items have been washed a couple of times, they are usually safe to wash in a mixed colour load, at a cool temperature, on a quick cycle. For peace of mind, you may wish to use a product that catches any colour runs - just in case!

Stains

blot blot blot!

MAIN DOS AND DON'T OF GETTING OUT STAINS

DO: Blot the stain to remove any excess liquid permeating the fibres.

DO NOT: Rub the stain, this can cause the stain to spread further, as well as damaging the surface of the fabric. If you are in any doubt, or if you are worried about delicate or vintage fabrics, we recommend taking these garments to a specialist who can assist further.

Blood

Blood is considered a 'protein stain' and it is best to begin by rinsing in clean, cold water. If the stain is a small amount of your own blood, you may find the best results come from your own spit. It might sound odd, but the enzymes in your saliva can help remove blood stains if the blood is your own. Otherwise, Hydrogen Peroxide may be your best bet - be sure to spot check in an inconspicuous place before beginning.

Sweat

If you've washed a top and notice a sweat stain, the best thing to do is air the area of the garment outside in direct sunlight.

Tomato

Blot any excess, and then rinse the stain with white vinegar - be sure to do a patch test first in an inconspicuous place. If there is also oil present, you may wish to apply dish soap and warm water, and then wash the garment before wearing.

Chocolate

Remove any excess, and then apply a stain remover product to the fabric. Rinse with warm water, and wash before wearing.

Coffee

Blot any excess, and then apply a stain remover product to the fabric. Rinse with cool water, and wash before wearing.

Oil

Oil can be tricky, but the first thing to do is remove the excess - talcum powder comes in handy here. The next step is to apply dish soap and warm water to effectively remove the stain, then wash the garment before wearing.

If you have any other stains, there are many more methods that can be found by entering "remove __ stain" into your search engine, be sure to do a patch test before using a new method.

Repairs

If you are not confident to repair or alter something yourself, you may wish to take your garment to a local seamstress, or some dry cleaners have this service too.

There are lots of very thorough photo tutorials and videos on blogs and Youtube that show various ways to repair and alter, these can be very helpful as we all learn differently and prefer different methods.

Simple Hem Fixing

Depending on the type of hem, if the stitches are coming loose this can easily be fixed with a few stitches on the sewing machine, or if this is not a suitable option a small back stitch mimicking the size of the existing hem stitches.

Invisible Hem

If the hem is invisible - and not seen on the outside, a Herringbone stitch may be ideal. This stitch is anchored in the turned over hem fabric, and fastened to the visible side with a very small, discrete stitch.

If you are unable to fix this yourself, and do not have time to visit a professional before the garment needs to be worn again, an iron on hem tape may give you a temporary fix if the wash care symbols indicate the fabric can be ironed.

How to take up a Hem

For a circle skirt, taking up a hem can be complicated due to the curved nature. Once you know how much to remove, add 1cm for seam allowance, and then draw a line on the inside of the item to cut the new hem. Once this is cut, the easiest method is to apply a narrow bias binding in a similar colour to the right side of the skirt hem, preferably with a sewing machine but a small, neat backstitch will do. Then press the binding over to the inside of the hem to create a facing, and sew this in place with a machine stitch, or a Herringbone (catch) stitch or Blind Hem stitch to make this hem invisible.

Trouser, pencil, or gathered skirt hems can be taken up by measuring and marking the required length, cutting away the excess, and then simply ironing the hem over twice to the desired length and securing with the machine stitch, or a Blind Hem or Herringbone (catch) stitch for an invisible finish.



How to Mend a Hole with a Patch

If you have a hole or a tear in an item you love, the best method of fixing is a patch. If the fabric is thin, your best bet may be to apply a fusible lightweight interfacing to the back of the fabric. This will add strength and prevent any further damage. A patch of matching fabric can be sewn to the hole using a satin stitch in a matching thread, to prevent the hole becoming larger. If your knitwear has a hole, darning is a perfect and period accurate method to mend the area. There may be a creative way of hiding the fixed area.

Go to your local fabric or craft shop, or browse online, and you may find a perfect ribbon to add a bow or a ruffle to the area. Lace may also be a good cover depending on the style. If the area of the mending lends itself well, a patch pocket could be added in a matching or contrasting fabric to conceal the mending stitches. If you're super creative, you may be able to embroider or cross stitch a design over the mending stitches to add a fun touch.

General Tips and Tricks

If you are washing any garments made from synthetic or polyester based fabrics, you could be shedding microplastics into the water system via your washing machine! To avoid sending these harmful microplastics into our waters, there are several products you can buy to place in your washing machine to catch them.

In warmer months, why not hang your washing outside to dry in the sun and fresh air? Saves on electricity and your helps energy bills!

Need to get some creases out of your outfit this morning? Hang them up in your bathroom while you shower and let the hot steam do the work!

