



FABRIC CARE GUIDE

Plant Fibres

	Hand Wash	Machine Wash	Dry-clean	Dry Flat	Iron	Dryer	Line Dry	Bleach
Coir	Hot water	n/a	n/a	Yes	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes
Cotton	Hot water. Separate colours	Hot water	Yes	Yes	Hot with steam	Yes. Can cause shrinkage	Yes	Yes
Hemp	Hot water	Hot water	Yes	Yes	Hot with steam	Yes	Yes	Yes, with care
Jute	Hot water	Hot water	Yes	Yes	Hot with steam	Yes	Yes	Yes, with care
Linen	Any temperature	Any temperature	Yes	Yes	Hot with steam	Yes	Yes	Yes, with care

Cotton

About Cotton

Cotton comes from the cotton plant, and when a cotton ‘boll’ matures, it bursts and looks like a bunch of cotton ‘puffs’ grouped together.

Common Cotton Fabrics

Batiste, bedford cord, brocade, calico, cambric, cheesecloth, chenille, chiffon, chintz, corduroy, crepe, damask, denim, drill, duck, flannelette, gabardine, gauze, gingham, lace, lawn, moiré, moleskin, muslin, percale, pique, plisse, poplin, sateen, satin, scrim, seersucker, shantung, shot fabric, terry towelling, ticking, twill, velvet, velveteen, voile and whipcord.

Recommended Uses

Blouses/shirts, trousers/shorts, skirts, bags, hats, T-shirts, socks, costumes, sleepwear/underwear, overalls, aprons, handkerchiefs and linen, blinds/curtaining, tarpaulins, awnings, tents, upholstery, bandages/dressings, thread.

Properties

Cotton is very strong, especially when wet, therefore being perfect for multiple laundering. The “handle” (feel) of plain cotton is hard, stiff and has no lustre (shine). Mercerized cotton however, *does* have lustre, is softer, and drapes better. Cotton is not static.

Cotton doesn't have much drape or elasticity (stretch), which often causes wrinkles over a long period of time, and may take on a "baggy" look, (meaning the fibres cannot return to their original woven position).

It absorbs moisture well, is cool to wear and fast to dry, making it comfortable to wear.

Some cottons shrink when laundered (especially if put in the dryer). This is due to the "relaxation" of the fibre (during garment construction, the fabric is twisted and pulled, and when it is laundered, the fabric shrinks back to its initial size).

Care

Wash cotton in hot water, then either wring, line dry or put in the dryer. Always separate colours, as some dyes may run.

Use a hot iron with steam. Cotton can be bleached, dry-cleaned, is easily dyed (should the garment fade, this will be due to a fault of the dye used, not the cotton).

Due to its absorbency, cotton also stains easily, however these stains are easily removed if treated immediately.

INFORMATION REFERENCED FROM: *Textiles for Modern Living. 5th Edition. By E.P.G Gohl*