



FABRIC CARE GUIDE

<u>Silk</u>								
	Hand Wash	Machine wash	Dryclean	Dry Flat	Iron	Dryer	Line Dry	Bleach
Silk	Cold to warm water. Separate colours	No	Yes	Dry flat on towel in shade	Cool	No	In shade	Avoid

Silk

About Silk

There are two types of silk, 'Cultivated' silk, (from a silk worm) and the other is 'Wild' or 'Tussur' silk (from moths), and is creamy or brown coloured.

Common Silk Fabrics

Brocade, chiffon, crepe, damask, georgette, grosgrain, moiré, ottoman, satin, shantung, shot silk, taffeta, velvet.

Recommended Uses

Blouses/shirts, skirts/trousers, shorts, ties and cravats, casual and formal dresses, sleepwear/lingerie, suiting, upholstery and curtains.

Properties

The elasticity (or stretch) of silk is good, helping its durability. Silk can have very good 'drape', especially if made into a satin.

Like wool, silk can absorb approximately 20% moisture before feeling wet. Silk actually gives off heat when absorbing moisture! (The 'chilling effect' is not apparent at first, but wet silk can get clammy on your skin after a while).

Silk is usually made up into lightweight fabrics, therefore drying reasonably quickly (the heavier the fabric the more time it requires to dry). Perspiration is readily absorbed but will eventually rot the fabric if not laundered regularly, with care. Silk actually has poor sunlight resistance, even though it is worn in hot climates.

Silk can become static, but still is a very comfortable, smooth fibre to wear.

Silk is not usually attacked by larvae or mildew, but can, when left in humid and warm conditions without proper laundering. White silk that has been stored for a while will yellow with age. This is inevitable.

Degummed Silk

Degummed silk (when the protein 'Seracin' is removed from the silk strand), is very smooth in texture, causing many people to think that silk is soft, when in fact the texture of silk can range from medium/hard to very smooth

Degummed silk also has a specific lustre (shine), due to its smoother, slightly irregular texture. This lustre is softer and more pleasing to the eye than the lustre of synthetic fabrics.

Care

Hand wash silk in cold water, as higher temperatures will yellow or dull the colour of the fabric. Over-steaming with your iron has the same effect.

It is recommended to dry silk in the shade out of direct sunlight.

When ironing silk, make sure it is slightly damp, using a cool iron (on the reverse side). Silk stretches more when wet, (leading to fabric distortion over time), but wrinkles come out more easily in this state.

Silk can be dry-cleaned. Always use recommended silk bleach.

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