



CLOTHING STORAGE

Storage is an important component in the care and maintenance of clothing. However, it is a component frequently overlooked until a problem occurs. Proper storage can and does reduce the time and money involved in upkeep and prolongs the life of your clothing.

Clothing storage must accommodate hanging as well as flat or folded items. Closet, drawer and shelf space have become a modern storage necessity that is sometimes in too short supply. The amount of storage space needed is dependent upon the amount and type of clothing; therefore, space requirements become very individualistic and specialized.

Clothing storage can be divided into three distinctive categories with respect to duration: *short-term* or day-to-day, *seasonal* and *long-term*. Each of these is discussed in greater detail.

METHODS OF STORING CLOTHES

Hanging Storage

Clothes, that are hung, should be suspended in an appropriate manner from a hanger. Hooks, as hanging devices, have limited use and should generally be avoided. Appropriate clothes hangers and proper hanging techniques should be used. The following guidelines are suggested.

- Select an appropriate clothes hanger for the garment. The type of hanger is

determined by garment style and weight. Example: Plastic tubular hangers provide minimal support; they can be used for firmly woven, lightweight shirts and blouses. Padded, shaped and suit hangers are for sheer fabric blouses, dresses, jackets, suits and tailored garments, respectively. Support should be such that stress is not so concentrated that distortion of the garment occurs.

- Slacks/pants can be suspended from the cuff or hem, or positioned on a hanger's horizontal bar which has been padded or is enlarged and slightly rounded to prevent creasing at the thigh.
- Look for and use garment loops (made of tape) which are found at the waistline of many ready-to-wear dresses and skirts. Suspend the garment by the loops to help support garment weight while it is hanging. Loops help distribute garment weight and minimizes distortion.
- Avoid using wire hanger unless covered with white paper or cloth. Wire hangers can rust, paint can peel and the metal can snag delicate fabric.
- When hanging, provide space between neighboring garments/hangers for air movement and easy access without disturbing other garments. Wrinkling and garment distortion will also be less of a problem.



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- If the garment has fasteners, keep at least the top one secured to prevent item from sliding off the hanger.
- Keep the storage area clean. Clean, and/or wash it down at least once a year.
- Herbs, scented odor devices and sachets give storage areas a pleasant smell. However, avoid direct contact between the scent-giving substance and clothing items to prevent unwanted spots and stains.

Flat Storage

Storage is required for items that must be folded or stored in a non-hanging condition. There are many items that fit this category and include sweaters and other types of knitwear (such as dresses, jackets); heavy, stretchy clothing; other delicate or fragile clothing; handbags; and small or otherwise unhangable items.

The following guidelines are suggested:

- When creasing can be a problem, consider using white tissue paper between garment folds to prevent creasing. Fold garments at construction lines or natural wearing lines such as waist or knees.
- Do not fold garment the same way each time. Alternate folding patterns help prevent permanent creasing.
- Consider rolling some items (such as men's underwear, socks) rather than folding. Rolling can decrease the amount of storage space required as well as reduce wrinkling.
- Paint closet shelves, line drawers or otherwise protect clothing from snags

and the natural oil and acid pH of unfinished wood.

- If possible, avoid stacking folded garments that have a tendency to crease. When stacking is necessary, always place the largest, heaviest garments on the bottom.
- Storage areas should be aired, cleaned and/or washed down at least once a year.
- If folded or flat storage space is limited and items must be hung, purchase/make storage devices to support or accommodate the items. Consider using decorative boxes (hat boxes, etc.) to house small items or accessories.
- Sachets or scented substances give stored clothes a pleasant smell. However, do not permit the herb or scent-giving substance to rest in direct contact with the clothing as the oil could cause spots or stains.

SHORT-TERM STORAGE

Short-term storage is for items stored daily or on a day-to-day basis. It consists of that portion of the wardrobe currently being worn and used. Proper day-to-day handling of clothes extends wear life and cuts down on the amount of laundering or drycleaning required.

Organization is extremely important to short term clothing storage. Organized closets and drawers permit wardrobes to be more functional and require less last-minute clothing maintenance.

Take time to plan and use existing storage space to meet individual needs. Shop around, locate and install storage hardware and accessories to expand and individualize

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available space. A little creative thought can also prove helpful. The following guidelines are suggested:

- Permit clothing to air at least overnight before storing in a closet, drawers or clothes hamper. Airing allows the moisture that may be trapped in the clothing to evaporate and wrinkles to relax.
- Rotate clothing use/wear over several days. Allow all clothing items, including shoes, at least one day's rest between wearings. Lightly brush clothing, especially winter clothes and outwear, after wearing and between cleanings.
- Remove jewelry from clothing and check for items left in pockets before storing. Secure or close fasteners.
- Before storing clothes after wearing, check for soil as well as spots and stains. Remove spots and stains, and launder or dryclean as soon as possible after soiling. Delays could shorten the life of the garment.
- Keep items worn most frequently within easy reach and visible in the storage area. Mesh baskets make good storage units
- Consider storing similar items such as jewelry, belts, and scarves, close to each other. This can make accessorizing easier and quicker.
- Never store damp clothing. Be sure laundered items are completely dry before putting them away.
- Do not store clothing near a source of heat or in sunlight.

- Occasionally permit closets and drawers to air. Leave doors or drawers ajar periodically for several hours. Storage areas should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year.

SEASONAL STORAGE

Seasonal storage is for items not currently being worn because style, fabric, color or weight is unsuited to the time of year. Storage time varies across the country from one to several months depending on climate and cultural influences.

Clothing stored on a seasonal basis requires special care and consideration. The following suggestions serve as a guide to storing seasonal items.

- Properly clean garments (launder or dryclean) prior to storage. Do not use starch, garment sizing, or fabric softener. Avoid washing garments in soap or chlorine bleach; be sure all garments have been rinsed thoroughly.
- Select a storage area that will provide the best protection for garments. Avoid basements, attics and garages if they expose clothing to extreme dampness, heat, grease and/or fumes or any type. Area should be carefully vacuumed, dusted and washed down, if possible, just prior to storing clothes.
- Be sure garments are completely dry before storing. Do not store damp or wet clothing.
- Avoid plastic bags for wrapping or covering clothes. If items are stored in a closet, cover them with cloth garment bags. Canvas garment bags with cedar tops and bottoms are suitable for closet

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storage. Canvas sweater and blanket bags with cedar bottoms are available for flat storage.

- Trunks and suitcases make great seasonal storage containers. If items are placed in pillowcases or sheets, they can be easily removed without disturbing contents when trunks/suitcases are needed for travel.
- Natural fiber fabrics need to breathe. Select packing materials to wrap garments so they can breathe. Consider using white tissue paper or clean sheet and pillowcases.
- Fold items to be stored flat as few times as possible. Fold at seamlines whenever possible. Do not over-pack or squeeze too many garments into the storage containers.
- If the storage space at home is limited or not appropriate for storing clothing, talk with a local full-service drycleaner. Some stores offer off-season garment storage at reasonable prices.
- The vapor from moth balls, moth crystals, or moth cakes is thought to kill insects and prevent moth damage to wool and wool blended fabrics. However, to be effective the vapor released from these products *must be confined in a sealed area/container* which is very difficult or impossible to accomplish in most home situations. The most reasonable approach to preventing insect damage is storing items *clean, and in a well-ventilated, clean storage area*. If using moth balls or crystals, suspend them in a mesh bag from the top of the storage enclosure as the vapors release downward. Do not let clothes rest on or

touch the bag. Seal storage space and leave undisturbed for several days.

- Avoid inhaling fumes from these storage substances as some authorities believe the fumes may be toxic to humans. Always read and follow product directions.
- When clothing is removed from storage, permit items to air before placing them in a closet or closed storage space. If necessary, put washable items requiring a fabric softener or other fabric finish through a rinse/dry cycle, using or applying the appropriate fabric softener or fabric finish.
- Wool, wool blend and specialty hair fiber fabrics can frequently be renewed and wrinkles removed by hanging them on a rod in a bathroom with steam such as from a shower curtain rod. After steaming, permit items to hang undisturbed overnight or for several hours. Wrinkles that might remain can be gently, easily pressed out.

LONG-TERM STORAGE

Long-term storage is for special clothing worn infrequently as well as heirlooms and garments with sentimental value. Items may be stored for as little as a year, or for periods of several years at a time. Among the items requiring long-term storage are costumes, holiday or party garments, special sports clothing, wedding dresses, maternity wear, and baby clothes.

Great care must be given items that are to be packed away and stored for long periods of time. The following suggestions serve as a guide to long-term storage.

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- Properly clean items (launder or dryclean) prior to storage, checking carefully for any unnoticed spots or stains. Items must be free from dirt, body oil, perfume, starch, fabric softener, detergent or soap, chlorine bleach, fabric sizing and hard water mineral deposits or residue.
- Launder washable items in soft water using care to wash and rinse thoroughly. Add a water softener (conditioner) to the water if necessary.
- When drycleaning item(s), discuss storage situation with your cleaner. Some full-service drycleaners may be able to assist in preparing items for long-term storage. Sleeves, bodice or other curved areas can be stuffed or shaped with acid-free tissue paper to prevent creasing. Some drycleaners will prepare and pack items for long-term storage for a special charge. Charges and services vary.
- Carefully select a method of storing (flat or hanging). Some items are best stored flat rather than hanging. Garments may be shaped or stuffed with acid-free tissue paper. Avoid stacking or creating too many layers. Heirlooms should be stored by themselves rather than with other garments.
- Select storage containers carefully to provide the most protection for garments or textile items. Corrugated plastic boxes that are lightweight, sturdy, waterproof and vented are good for the storage baby clothes and other items made from fibers other than wool and wool blends.
- Store wool and wool blend fibers in a cedar enclosure constructed of heartwood at least 3/4" thick. Line chest or wrap items in a clean, white sheet that has been laundered without the use of chlorine bleach. *Seal container tightly.*
- Use white tissue paper or white muslin sheeting as packing material. Be sure sheeting is clean and has been rinsed thoroughly (three or four times) to rid it of chlorine bleach, soap or detergent residue. Line storage container or wrap items in tissue or sheeting before placing them in the container.
- Acid-free tissue paper is available and can be purchased for use when storing items. However, many authorities do not believe it is necessary to use it. Do not use plastic bags for storage. Plastic can trap moisture and contribute to the yellowing of fabrics.
- Label all storage containers carefully as to contents and date.
- Select a storage area where the temperature and humidity do not reach extremes. Optimal conditions: temperature not to exceed 75 degrees Fahrenheit (75° F) and relative humidity under 55 percent. Basements, attics and garages may expose containers to dampness, extreme temperatures, grease and fuel flames.
- Check and clean storage area at least once a year. Check containers for evidence of damage or change. Unseal containers periodically and examine contents for any apparent change.
- When items are unpacked for use, air them several days before storing or using. Garments may be freshened by laundering, using a home drycleaning kit

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(Dryel®, Custom Cleaner®, etc.) at home or taking them to a commercial/professional drycleaner. Heirlooms stored for many years may need to be vacuumed carefully through protective screening and aired.

Supplies

- Visit or contact a museum in your town or area. You may be able to purchase directly from them, or they can direct you to a supplier.
- Check the yellow pages of your telephone book. Some drycleaners prepare and pack items for long-term storage. They may also sell packing containers and tissue.

The remainder of this publication provides information about *problems* that can and do occur during storage, their *cause*, and some potential *solutions*. Problems are listed alphabetically and divided by the type of storage (short-term, seasonal and long-term).

STORAGE PROBLEMS

Broken Threads–Fabric Deterioration

Broken threads and fabric deterioration occurs primarily to clothing stored for long periods of time, or to garments (fabrics) that are fragile.

Short-Term and Seasonal Storage

Problem: ***Broken Threads–Fabric Deterioration***

- ***Cause:*** Damaged storage container or storage area.

SOLUTION: Repair garment if possible.

Determine problem, repair and/or change storage container or area.

- ***Cause:*** Garment damaged prior to storing.

SOLUTION: Repair garment if possible.

Check garments prior to storing for any repairs which need to be made. Repair garments before storing.

Long -Term Storage

Problem: ***Broken Threads–Fabric Deterioration***

- ***Cause:*** Garment(s) stored on a hanger in a hanging position.

SOLUTION: None, or very little to the garment/item. Depending on the extent of the damage, repair may be possible. In the future avoid storing heavy, fragile or knit garment for long periods of time on a hanger. The weight of the garment can cause strain and eventually broken threads and holes will occur.

- ***Cause:*** Improper storing. Fabrics which are, or have become fragile, old or sensitive deteriorate much more quickly when not stored properly. Broken threads will occur naturally where garments are folded or allowed to crease (such as seams, hems).

SOLUTION: None, or very little to the item. Repair or have repaired, if possible. In the future take care to store garment very carefully, cushioning folded areas with muslin sheeting or white tissue paper. Storage area should not exceed a temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit (75° F) and 55 percent relative humidity for optimal storing conditions.

Discoloration

Discoloration occurs on white, colored or printed fabrics in the form of fading, yellowing or color transfer from one garment or item to another.

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Short-Term, Seasonal or Long Term Storage

Problem: *Discoloration*

- **Cause:** Overuse or improper use of laundry product(s) such as bleach, fabric softener, sizing, starch, bluing, detergent.

SOLUTION: For bleach, the damage is permanent. For other products, it may be possible to re-wash/re-rinse item.

Removal will depend on the age of the discoloration, and the previous storage condition.

- **Cause:** Inappropriate care method really associated with storage. Some white or cream natural fiber fabrics will yellow after a period of time. In other colored fabrics, dyes can run, fade or crock (the transfer of color from one item to the other as a result of touching or rubbing).

SOLUTION: Generally, nothing can be done to restore the white or reverse the yellowing of natural fibers. Colors that have run onto or transferred to another may be restored by using a color remover (if the item is laundered at home), or taking it to a reputable professional drycleaner.

- **Cause:** Improper storage. Garment(s) may have been stored close to a heat source, light, gas fumes, window or sunlight.

SOLUTION: No known solution to restore color to item.

- **Cause:** Damage to storage container or area. Examples include water or other substances causing dyes to run or crock (the transfer of color from one item to other as a result of touching or rubbing).

SOLUTION: No known solution to restore color to item. Repair damage to

and/or change storage area and/or container.

- **Cause:** Soiled garment.

SOLUTION: Launder or dryclean garment according to the care label recommendations; treat soiled/stained areas. If soiled area has aged or been set by heat, discoloration may be permanent.

- **Cause:** Item(s) stored in plastic bag or plastic bag used as packing material.

SOLUTION: Launder or dryclean garment according to care label recommendation. Discoloration may be permanent.

- **Cause:** Item(s) stored in contact with wood, paper or other substance which has rubbed off or discolored item.

SOLUTION: Launder or dryclean garment according to the item care label recommendations. Discoloration may be permanent.

- **Cause:** Fume fading caused by air pollution.

SOLUTION: No remedy to restore color.

Holes and Fabric Damage

Holes and fabric damage often spells garment/item disaster or demise! At best, the item may need to be mended or recycled. It is important, therefore to determine the cause of the damage as a means of preventing future occurrences.

Begin by carefully evaluating the situation for clues. Make note of garment/item fiber content, appearance of holes, and other signs or clues in the storage area.

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- **Cause:** Soiled garment.

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- **Cause:** Item(s) stored in plastic bag or plastic bag used as packing material.

SOLUTION: Launder or dryclean garment according to care label recommendation. Discoloration may be permanent.

- **Cause:** Item(s) stored in contact with wood, paper or other substance which has rubbed off or discolored item.

SOLUTION: Launder or dryclean garment according to the item care label recommendations. Discoloration may be permanent.

- **Cause:** Fume fading caused by air pollution.

SOLUTION: No remedy to restore color.

Holes and Fabric Damage

Holes and fabric damage often spells garment/item disaster or demise! At best, the item may need to be mended or recycled. It is important, therefore to determine the cause of the damage as a means of preventing future occurrences.

Begin by carefully evaluating the situation for clues. Make note of garment/item fiber content, appearance of holes, and other signs or clues in the storage area.

Short-Term, Seasonal, Long-Term Storage

Problem: *Holes and/or fabric damage*

- **Cause:** Mice or rodents.

SOLUTION: Vacuum garments/items if necessary. Launder or dryclean according to care label. Make repairs if possible. Look for signs of mice as well as potential entries into the storage area. Mice will use or destroy any type of fabric. Clean storage area and block/repair entry into area.

- **Cause:** Moth or insect damage.

SOLUTION: Vacuum garments/items if necessary. Launder or dryclean according to care label recommendations. Make repairs if possible. Remove all items from the storage area, taking care to observe for webs, dead insects and the like. Inspect all clothing and other stored items. If the area appears to have a large infestation, call an exterminator. For a small or minor infestation, clean storage area well and treat, if necessary, with an appropriate insecticide.

MOTHS generally attack wool and hair fibers such as mohair, cashmere, angora, camel, reindeer.

SILVERFISH, ROACHES, and/or CRICKETS tend to attack natural fibers such as cotton, linen, ramie, lyocell and rayon. They will also feed on articles that contain sizing, starch or some types of fabric finish.

Problem: *Holes, fabric damage* (continued)

- **Cause:** Mildew created by damp, dark storage conditions. Fabric will have a musty smell, maybe grayish or purplish spots and/or discolored edges around the holes or damaged area.

SOLUTION: Refer to section dealing with MILDEW.

- **Cause:** Damaged or inappropriate storage container or storage area. The item has been damaged by the storage container or the storage area.

SOLUTION: Repair garment if possible. Change or repair container and/or storage area.

MILDEW

Mildew is a type of mold that attacks, weakens and destroys natural fiber fabrics while discoloring manmade fiber fabrics. When warm, humid conditions exist, mildew can form in just one day.

Short-Term Storage

Problem: *Mildew*

- **Cause:** Items were put away wet or damp

SOLUTION: Depends on the amount of damage. If only an odor exists, re-launder using detergent and bleach if safe for the fabric. For items that are drycleaned, take to a drycleaner. Make sure item and storage area is completely dry before returning it to storage.

- **Cause:** Damp storage area.

SOLUTION: Action required depends on the amount of damage to the garment. For those items that have already mildewed, see **SOLUTION** under "Short Term" above. For the storage container, remove the items and place them in the sun or the open shade to dry out. If possible, wash down storage area with a bleach solution. Refer to the instructions on the bleach container. Permit area to dry out completely by leaving a light on in the

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SOLUTION: Refer to section dealing with MILDEW.

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SOLUTION: Repair garment if possible. Change or repair container and/or storage area.

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closet or using a heater for a short period of time.

To discourage mildew, air out storage area periodically when weather is dry. Make an attempt to identify any source of moisture and determine how it can be controlled. Some simple solutions include leaving the closet light on, and/or leaving the closet door ajar.

Follow the product directions and recommendations when using chemical moisture absorbers such as silica gel, granular calcium chloride, or slow-starting charcoal briquettes. These products must be changed or dried out periodically. Avoid using or leaving plastic bags over or around clothes as they trap moisture. Never store any item damp.

Seasonal or Long-Term Storage

Problem: *Mildew* – continued

- **Cause:** The causes are the same as those listed under *Mildew Short-Term Storage*, above.

SOLUTION: The solutions become somewhat dismal in terms of restoring the item since damage can be extensive. Recycling is frequently your best alternative.

Mildew can destroy garments, causing fabric weakness, holes, as well as discoloration. Never store garments with starch or fabric sizing as mildew "feeds" on these products.

ODOR

Odor can develop or occur in all three types of storage.

Short -Term Storage

Problem: *Odor*

- **Causes:** Not permitting clothing, shoes or other items to air sufficiently before storing.

SOLUTION: Air items outdoors, if possible, for several hours. Launder or dryclean if necessary. Remove all items from the storage area and wash it down. Permit the area to air several days if possible. Add an air freshener to the storage area.

- **Cause:** Clothing stored soiled.

SOLUTION: Air clothing outdoors, in the shade if possible, for several hours. Launder or dryclean based on label recommendations. Storage area will need to be cleaned, aired and freshened before using again.

- **Cause:** Inappropriate storage area.

SOLUTION: Air clothing outdoors if possible, in the shade for several hours. Launder or dryclean if necessary. Investigate location of storage area for penetration of odors from adjacent areas such as pipes or other stored materials.

- **Cause:** Improper use of laundering or drycleaning products.

SOLUTION: Air clothing outdoors, if possible, in the shade, for several hours. Depending on item care label, re-launder, or take item back to drycleaner and discuss the problem.

- **Cause:** Storing item while damp. Mildew conditions exist.

SOLUTION: See information under ***MILDEW***

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- **Cause:** Storing item while damp. Mildew conditions exist.

SOLUTION: See information under ***MILDEW***

Seasonal or Long-Term Storage

Problem: *Odor* – continued

- **Cause:** A natural occurrence when some types of storage containers or moth balls/crystals are used.

SOLUTION: Air clothing for several days or at least several hours outdoors in the shade if possible. Laundering or drycleaning should remove storage odor.

- **Cause:** Improper use of laundering or drycleaning product(s).

SOLUTION: Storage will magnify these problems which may not have been detected at the time of storage. Air clothing. Re-laundry or take item back to the drycleaner and discuss the problem.

- **Cause:** Inappropriate storage containers or storage area.

SOLUTION: Air clothing for several days or at least several hours outdoors in the shade if possible. Re-laundry or dryclean. Check storage container and/or area to locate problem.

- **Cause:** Clothing stored soiled with body odor, body oil, perfume, cologne, smoke.

SOLUTION: Launder or dryclean clothing. If odor persists, air items, preferably outdoors, in shade, for several hours.

SPOTS AND STAINS APPEAR

Spots and stains appear after garment has been stored for a period of time. This problem tends to occur during seasonal and long-term storage, but can occur with any storage.

Short-Term or Seasonal Storage

Problem: *Spots and Stains Appear*

- **Cause:** Failure to remove spots and

stains during the cleaning process prior to storing.

SOLUTION: If the item is washable, try pretreating to remove the spot/stain. Launder again using bleach if appropriate for the fabric. For dryclean garments, discuss the situation with a reputable cleaner.

The stain, age and whether the stain has been heat set will determine if it can be removed satisfactorily.

- **Cause:** Garment is resting on, laying next to or on top of, scented herb container, moisture absorber, or moth crystals.

SOLUTION: If the item is washable, use a liquid detergent or a paste of powdered detergent on the spot and launder with bleach that is safe for the fabric. Dryclean garments should be taken to a reputable drycleaner and options discussed.

Long -Term Storage

Problem: *Spots and Stains Appear* – continued

- **Cause:** Damage has occurred to the storage container or area.

SOLUTION: Depends on the damage done, the age and condition of the item. Laundering or drycleaning may be sufficient to remove spot. Some damage may be permanent.

- **Cause:** Items may not have been cleaned before storing. Invisible stains on the items were not properly treated and removed. Stains containing sugar may go unnoticed and untreated. After a period of time, a spot appears.

SOLUTION: The age of the stain will be a big factor in the chance of removal. Stains in garments that have been drycleaned and pressed have little hope. Depending on the age and condition of the laundered item, try flushing it with water. Pretreat the area

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Problem: *Spots and Stains Appear* – continued

- **Cause:** Garments were not cleaned or handled properly for long term storage.
- SOLUTION:** Depends on the age of the item, the storage time, the storage condition and the specific cause. If possible, try laundering washable garments using a mild detergent, soft water and two or more rinses. For drycleaned garments, discuss the situation with a professional cleaner.

STRETCHING/SAGGING/GARMENT BULGES

Stretching, sagging and garment bulges can be very distressing. Prolonged distortion can lead to permanent fabric damage. The problem is primarily created by using an inappropriate or improper storage method, namely hanging.

Short-Term or Seasonal Storage

Problem: *Stretching, Sagging, Garment Bulges*

- **Cause:** Improper use of a hanger; improper storage technique, improper hanger.
- SOLUTION:** Lightly steam and reshape the area may restore it to its original size/shape. If necessary, launder or take to a drycleaner. Use the most appropriate shape and size hanger for the garment to distribute the weight and minimize fabric stress. Consider storing the item flat rather than hanger it.

- **Cause:** Inappropriate storage method.
- SOLUTION:** Light steaming and reshaping of garment area may restore original size/shape. May need to launder or take to drycleaner to restore shape. Avoid hanging garments that are heavy and/or have a tendency to stretch. Some garments with bias cut designs will also need to be supported or stored flat.

Long Term Storage

Problem: *Stretching, Sagging, Garment Bulges* – continued

- **Cause:** Improper storage method.
- SOLUTION:** Sometimes very little if anything can restore size and shape. Light, gentle steaming may help. Depending on the age and condition of the garment, launder or take to a reputable drycleaner for shaping. Prolonged improper storage can result in permanent fabric/garment damage.

WRINKLES

Wrinkles are creases and folds that occur during storage. Slight creases are difficult to avoid if items are stored flat. Prolonged creasing or folding in the same location can eventually lead to broken threads/yarns and fabric damage.

Short-Term Storage

Problem: *Wrinkles*

- **Cause:** Too many clothes in too limited amount of space.
- SOLUTION:** Press clothing or item before each wearing or using. Inventory closet and/or drawer and shelf-stored items. Study situation and determine cause of

with liquid detergent, or a paste of powdered detergent and water. Launder using bleach that is safe for the fabric. Soaking in lemon juice or hydrogen peroxide may be helpful.

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problem and possible solution.
Suggestions include: Reducing the number of items, rearrange storage area(s), add more clothing storage and/or use an alternative method of storing.

Problem: *Wrinkles* – continued

- **Cause:** Improper hanging.

SOLUTION: Press or have garment pressed before each wearing. Use suitable hanger and hang properly on hanger. Garment may need to be stuffed with tissue paper between wearings to maintain shape.

- **Cause:** Improper or poor flat storing.

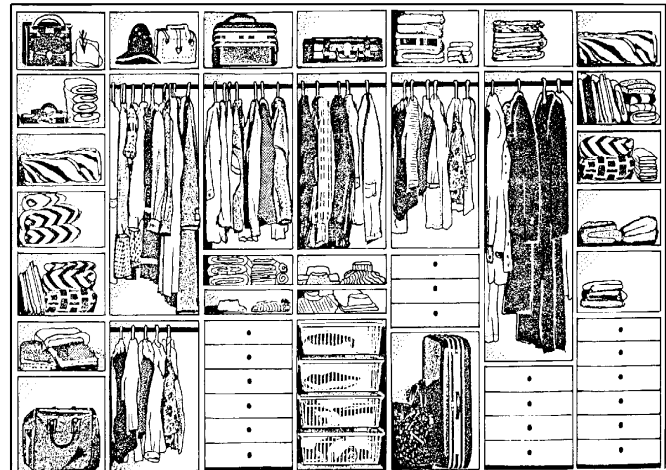
SOLUTION: Press before wearing or using. Take time to smooth garment/item and place tissue between folded edges. Fold as few times as possible. Depending on the storage space and item, roll item instead of folding.

Seasonal or Long-Term Storage

Problem: *Wrinkles* – continued

- **Cause:** A natural condition created by storage situation.

SOLUTION: Depending on the item, press, iron or steam before wearing. Use the best storage technique for the item. Many clothing items stored for long periods of time are best stored flat to prevent stretching or strain on certain areas of the garment.



Source: CLOCARE
Software Computer Program
Linda Heaton, Ph.D., University of Kentucky
Nadine Hackler, University of Florida

Linda Heaton, Ph.D.
Extension Professor Textiles & Environment, revised 01/02
Clothing Storage.wpd [Disk:LMH Storage]

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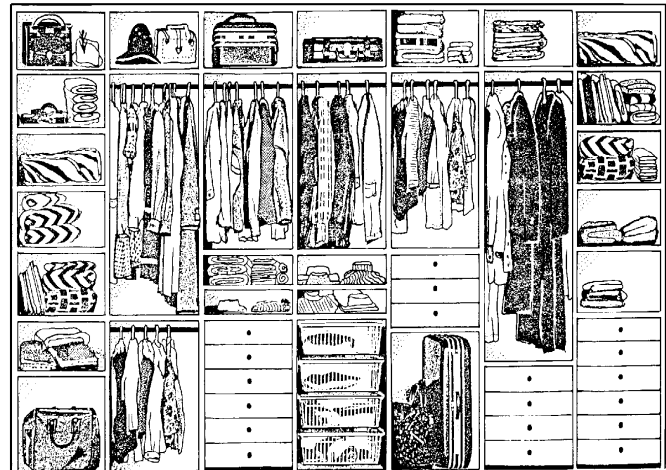
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