

Getting The Most Out Of Your Uniforms

Uniforms are not “wonder garments”. They are susceptible to wear, stains, shrinking, colour fading and do on occasions need washing, drying and possibly even ironing. The following is some general tips to help your uniform look good and last as long as possible.

The Content Care Label

CONTENT CARE

65% COTTON / 35% POLYESTER
WARM MACHINE WASH
SEPARATELY BEFORE USE
DO NOT BLEACH
DO NOT TUMBLE DRY
DO NOT SOAK
DO NOT DRY CLEAN
LINE DRY IN SHADE

In Australia, all new clothing is required to have a Content Care Label on the garment that specifies the composition of the fabric and how to care for it. Many manufacturers now use standardised international symbols. An explanation of these symbols can be found at this online address: www.apparelsearch.com/care_label_symbols.htm

The Content Care Label was introduced by the Government to:

- * Prolong the life of products
- * Retain the appearance of products
- * Minimise damage to articles 'in the wash'
- * Enable an informed choice at the point of sale as to whether an article is suitable.

Please read and follow the care labels on your garments before first use. Be particularly careful with cotton rich (80% or more) fabrics as they will be vulnerable to shrinking under hot temperatures (during washing, drying or even ironing).

Washing Tips

Do not use cheap washing powders and avoid stain removal soaks if possible. These contain slightly corrosive chemicals that over time will start to break down the fabric and may cause the colour to run unexpectedly.

To minimise ironing and fabric wear, wash light weight garments such as business shirts with other similar weight fabrics. If you have a gentle wash or wrinkle minimising setting on your washing machine use this to wash your shirts.

Washing shirts with heavy items such as jeans and pants will greatly increase the amount of wrinkling that occurs and shorten the life of the garment due to friction and tension during the washing process.

Be mindful of the water temperature. Cold or warm washing is recommend.

Always remove the garments from the washing machine as soon as the cycle finishes and hang them up straight away on a coat hanger or a clothes airer to minimise ironing.

Drying Tips

The best way to dry your clothes is to hang them on an indoor clothes rack. Most clothes will dry within a day (or two for thick garments such as jeans). We recommend this as your garments won't shrink or fade or pick up dust or allergens.

A clothes dryer while convenient and sometimes necessary is not particularly friendly to your garments. If you do use one, take the garments out just before they are fully dry and place on a coat hanger or clothes airer/rack to minimise or avoid ironing.

Use a cool or warm setting on your clothes dryer whenever possible.

Garments placed in full sunlight on an outdoor clothes line will fade. We recommend turning them inside out so that the fading occurs on areas of the garment you won't generally see.

Ironing Tips

Go and buy yourself an ironing Steam Station. Seriously, it will 1/2 your ironing time and your garments will look better and last longer as you won't need to apply as much force due to the high pressure steam.

Be mindful that high cotton content garments can still be shrunk with a hot iron.

Do not directly iron prints or embroideries. Either iron the back or cover with a tea towel and iron over that.

Use very low temperature settings on low/non iron polyester fabrics and “sports” fabrics. These garments are essentially forms of plastic and they will melt under a hot iron. Alternatively hang the garment on a hanger, hold it away from your body and shoot with a few bursts of steam from your iron.

