

## Caring for Your Silk and Rayon Clothes

- For best results, follow the care label on the garment. Do not have “washable” silks and rayons dry cleaned. If care labels are not followed and a problem occurs, there will be no recourse with the manufacturer or retailer.
- Have all components of an outfit cleaned together to ensure uniformity of appearance.
- Never use chlorine bleach—it permanently damages silk.
- Allow perfume, deodorant, and hair spray to dry before you dress and remove spills from alcoholic beverages as soon as possible. Alcohol can cause dye bleeding and discoloration.
- Use caution with household products. Alkaline products such as facial soaps, shampoos, detergents, and even toothpastes can cause color loss or change on silk. If contact occurs, talk to your dry cleaner promptly about possible restoration.
- Store garments in closets away from any light, such as windows or electric lights. Most colors used on silk and rayon fabrics can eventually fade from such exposure.



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# SAVORING

## *Silk & Rayon*

*Careful cleaning equals  
carefree customers*

**PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS CARE**

**S**ilk and rayon are two widely used fibers in men's and women's apparel. In today's markets, these fabrics can be seen in high-end designer wear, as well as casualwear for men and women. Both fibers may be dyed various colors, from the darkest black to brilliant reds, fuchsia, and yellow. Potential problems are discussed below, followed by a handy list of care tips.

### Wash or Dry Clean?

Both silk and rayon fibers dry clean very well. If the manufacturer has not tested for appropriate care instructions, however, some dyes or finishes applied to the fibers may be damaged by dry cleaning. Washing, meanwhile, may damage garments containing sizing and/or dyes that are sensitive to water. It is always important to follow the manufacturer's care instructions.

### “Washable” Silk and Rayon

Some dyes on “washable” silk and rayon actually dissolve in water, causing considerable dye bleeding and staining of lighter areas on a garment. Multicolored articles should be tested for colorfastness before washing them.

### Sueded Silk and Rayon



*The sueded finish of this shirt has been removed along the cuff, resulting in a darker edge.*

Some silk and rayon fabrics have a special finish, which makes them feel like a soft suede. Areas that are repeatedly rubbed may lose this finish, creating lighter areas or a darker, shaded appearance. Most often this damage will be seen at the seat, waist, upper thigh, elbows, or other areas of wear. Lapels, hems, and cuffs, may also show similar shading.

Self-sticking name tags, stickers, or other types of adhesive backings will damage sueded finishes.



*The white stains on this red blouse were caused by contact with a substance containing alcohol. This type of dye disturbance cannot be reversed.*

### Spots and Rings

With silk and rayon, the sizing or finish applied by the manufacturer may discolor upon contact with moisture such as food and beverage spills, perspiration, and rain. If the article is badly stained by moisture and labeled as “dry cleanable,” it can be very difficult for a dry cleaner to correct.

### Perspiration Problems and Chloride

Research has shown that chloride salts of any type weaken silk yarns. Chloride salts are present in many types of foods, beverages, medicines, perspiration, deodorants, plain table salt, and salt water. Have perspiration stains removed as soon as possible to avoid permanent staining, color changes, or fabric damage. If you perspire heavily, consider wearing underarm shields.

### Home Stain Removal

Because of the extreme sensitivity of many dyes and sizings to moisture, removing stains at home may be very difficult. It is best to blot up as much of the stain as possible and take stained garments to the dry cleaner. Don't rub! Rubbing garments, particularly silk ones, while they're wet can break the surface fibers, causing light areas or chafing. ►