

# Steps in Washing



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# Steps in Washing

Good laundering doesn't just happen! Good methods, possible only with good equipment, makes laundering perfection sure and certain.

**SORT CLOTHES** - Before you wash, collect all soiled laundry and sort into groups according to the type of fabric or garment and the degree of soil. Separate light and dark colors and lightly soiled clothing. Remember, washing clothes before they get too soiled is a far simpler job than washing extremely soiled clothes. Clothes and linens last longer, too, when not allowed to get extremely soiled before washing. For convenience, a sorting table is essential. This can be either a permanent table or a drop leaf table that is brought down from the wall.

**MEND AND REMOVE SPOTS AND STAINS** - During sorting, remove dress pads, fancy pins, empty pockets and roll down sleeves. Remove spots and stains before washing them, for the laundry process may set the stain. About 90 percent of household stains can be removed by the housewife. Fix small rips, loose buttons, etc., before garments are put into the hamper.

**PRE-TREAT HEAVILY SOILED** shirt collars, cuffs, etc., with whatever detergent you are using for the laundry. Dampen the soiled area and rub in a small quantity of detergent with the fingers or a small brush.

**GATHER A PROPERLY ASSORTED LOAD** of the right size for your washer. Find the capacity of your machine from your instruction book. Do not overload as it results in poor washing and causes more severe wear on machine parts.

If articles billow above the water in the agitator type machine and the action is not sufficient to pull them under the water, then the tub is over-loaded regardless of poundage. For best results, large pieces should be mixed in the load with smaller ones. Authorities have found that if the load is mixed with large and small items, greater cleaning efficiency can be expected. Different sizes of items causes more friction in the washing so more of the dirt comes out. It is the friction that removes the soil; soap or syndets aid the friction by helping the water to soak into the fiber.

AVERAGE PIECES PER POUND (DRY CLOTHES)

1 twin bed sheet (double sheet 1-1/2 - 2 lbs)	2 men's shirts
3 pillow cases	2 sets men's undershirts and shorts
3 bath towels	1 pajama suit
4-6 hand towels	3 childrens' dresses
16 wash cloths or napkins	2 adult dresses
2 luncheon cloths	5-6 dish towels

SOAKING IS UNNECESSARY, especially for mildly soiled clothes. For very soiled clothes a 15 minute soak period in warm water and about one-half the regular amount of soap or syndet to increase the wetting quality of water and start to loosen the soil is adequate. Soak in the set tubs. While one load of clothes is washing, the next load may be soaking. Automatic washing machines provide a definite soak period in the laundry cycle that may or may not be used.

SUDSING - If soap and soft water is used there should be a 2 to 3 inch layer of suds before the clothes are added. Some syndets are low sudsing type, so height of suds can't be used as a gauge for amount

to use. Rather follow instructions on package. Measure soap or syndets. If an automatic washer is used, follow recommendations of the manufacturer for kind and amount of detergent.

### SUDS TEMPERATURE

White cottons 140° - 160° F.

Colored cottons 110° - 120° F.

Rayons 90° - 110° F.

Water can be too hot but most people have trouble keeping the temperature high enough. Add clothes to the tub one piece at a time, while the agitator is in motion.

**HOW LONG SHOULD CLOTHES BE WASHED** - About 8-10 minutes, depending on amount of soil and the machine. The assumed theory that the longer clothes are agitated the cleaner the wash, is not true. With longer washing periods, clothes will take up dirt from the water after they have been clean, giving a gray finished laundry.

**IF BLEACH IS USED WHEN SHOULD IT BE ADDED** - Add diluted bleach to the suds before clothes are put into the tub.

**HOW MUCH RINSING** - Two rinses are absolutely necessary for good results and three rinses give still better results. If soap is used, be sure to soften the rinse water as well as the wash water. The first rinse of hot, soft water is to dissolve the soap which is left in the clothes. The second rinse can be luke warm as it continues to dilute the soil dispersed in the water remaining in the fabric.

Clothes should not be lifted from the water when rinsing and turning, because lifting them when they are heavy with water will weaken the fabric, and it is fatiguing. Rinse the clothes with a rubber plunger. Pushing the plunger up and down will force water through the clothes. Fifty plunges will rinse well. When putting clothes through the wringer, fold buttons and buckles inside to keep them from being torn off.

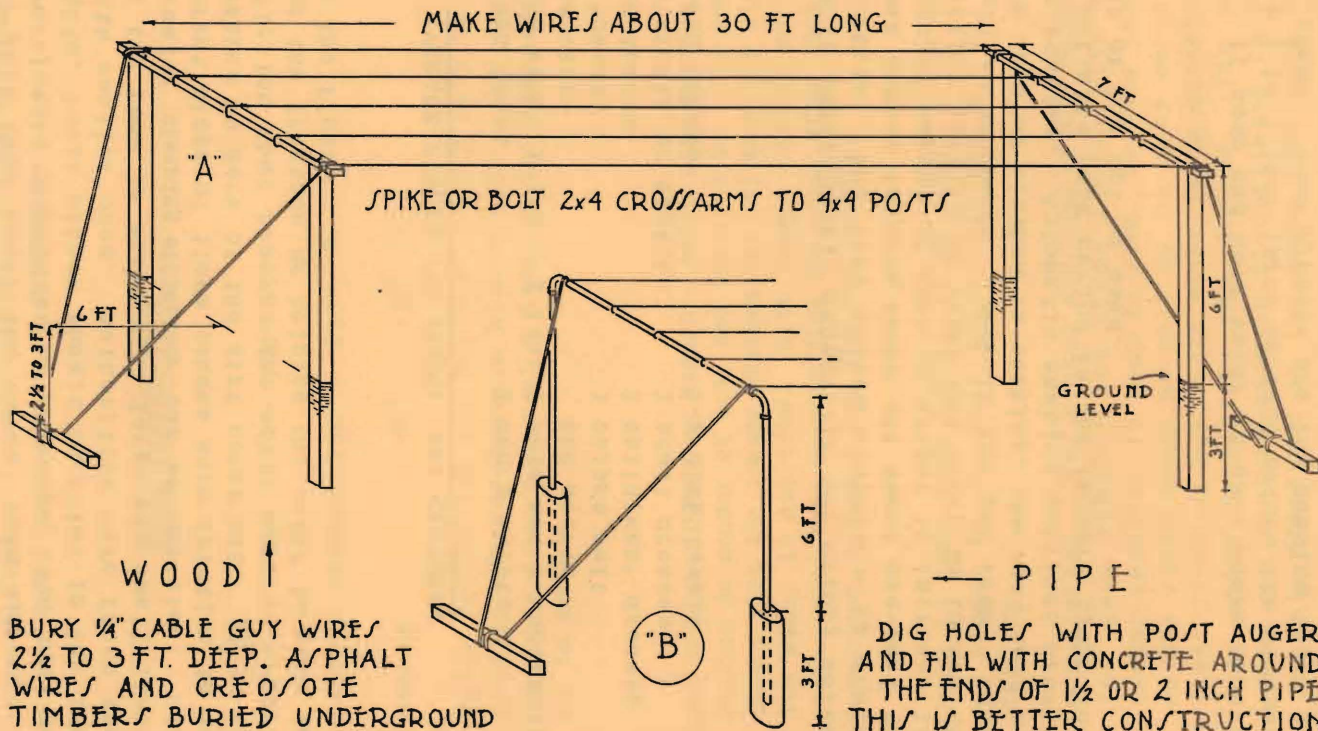
STARCHING - If articles are to be starched, sort them as they come from the wringer.

AUTOMATIC MACHINES - The above laundry procedures concern only the conventional machine. The procedure is identical for both types of washers up to the soaking stage when the automatic washer takes over the jobs of soaking, sudsing, rinsing and spinning.

HANGING - White clothes when hung in the sun will be bleached. The sun will bleach colored clothes too, so hang them in the shade. Clothes should not be hung in the whipping wind, as this weakens the fabric and may tear it. Opening windows in a drying room will give the same results as hanging out-of-doors without the disadvantages of wind and sun fading. Garments should be hung with the fiber line parallel to the clothes line. Hang clothes on the line in the order that they will be taken down for sprinkling and ironing.

THE CLOTHESLINE - A satisfactory clothes line is one that is clean, taut, the right height and enough line to dry all the clothes at the same time, thus saving time and work. Wipe wire line with a clean, damp cloth each time before using it.

A PLAN FOR AN OUTDOOR CLOTHESLINE



A good clothesline is taut, is built the right height for the person who is to use it, is supported on sturdy, well-spaced posts, and is long enough to dry all the clothes at one time.