Vestiaire Collective
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STEAMERY
Stockholm

The Only Care Guide You'll Ever Need

At Vestiaire Collective, we're committed to keeping clothes out of landfill by increasing the number of times they are worn, with the goal of creating a more sustainable fashion system.

The effect of doing this is huge: buying a second-hand jumper from Vestiaire reduces any harmful impact on the environment by 81%, compared to buying that same item first-hand.*

So we teamed up with Steamery Stockholm, who are not only experts in environmentally friendly clothing care, but also offer tools and products which make it easy for you to wear your favourite pieces for as long as possible.

Our two brands share the same philosophy: if you look after your clothes well, they'll look great and last longer.

So when the time for reselling comes, you'll get more money back. It's an essential part of circular fashion; caring for your wardrobe for yourself, for the environment and everyone else too.

That's why we've created this Clothing Care Guide, to help you learn more about how to wash less, wash well and care better.

Wash Less

Most clothes never become worn out - they become washed out, losing their shape, colour and thickness. Unnecessary washing also means wasting water and energy. Our best advice for prolonging any garment's lifetime? Wash your clothes as little as possible.

5 Great Alternatives to Washing

1. Steaming

The best choice when you don't want to wash: the hot steam kills bacteria, reduces bad smells and returns your item to its former wrinkle-free condition.

2. Airing

Fresh air is your friend when it comes to removing odours. Hang your clothes outside overnight to make your garments feel crisp and new - this works particularly well for woollen items.

3. Brushing

A clothing brush is a far more versatile alternative to a lint roller, and will easily brush away dirt, hair and dust from the surface of fabrics.

4. Misting

Steamery's clothing mists contain active bacterial cultures that break down bad odours from clothing. Spray the mist directly on the source of the smell and boom - your item can be worn again straight away.

5. Removing stains

Spilled tomato juice on your favourite top? Don't panic: stains are much easier to remove if you can use a treatment before washing.

- For most ordinary stains (mud, ice-cream), use ordinary stain remover or detergent
- For oil and grease marks, use specialist soap products
- For wine and harsher stains, use hydrogen peroxide-based remover

ROSE & MUSK
DELICATE WASH
Wool & Silk
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Wash Well

The key to eco-friendly washing is washing less. But when you can't avoid your growing laundry pile any longer, it's important to know how to wash your clothes well; using the right detergent, technique and temperatures to help your clothes stay fresh and look new.

6 Washing Rules for Eco-Friendly Laundry

1. Sort And Separate

The only surefire way to prevent your white garments from turning grey is to sort and separate before washing. Dark clothes, light-colours and whites should all be washed separately. For garments labelled 'hand-wash' or 'wash separately', do exactly that.

2. Dry Cleaning Isn't Always Necessary

Good news for your dry cleaning bill: most clothes with a 'dry clean' label can be hand washed. We recommend hand washing all your favourite items anyway to make them last longer. Watch out for 'dry clean only' labels though - some fabrics don't react well to water.

3. Detergent Is Not One-Size-Fits-All

Your standard laundry detergents can destroy delicate fibres, so use an enzyme-free delicate wash detergent for silk and wool. Use the quantity recommended on the packaging: your clothes won't be any cleaner if you use too much.

4. Don't Turn Up The Heat

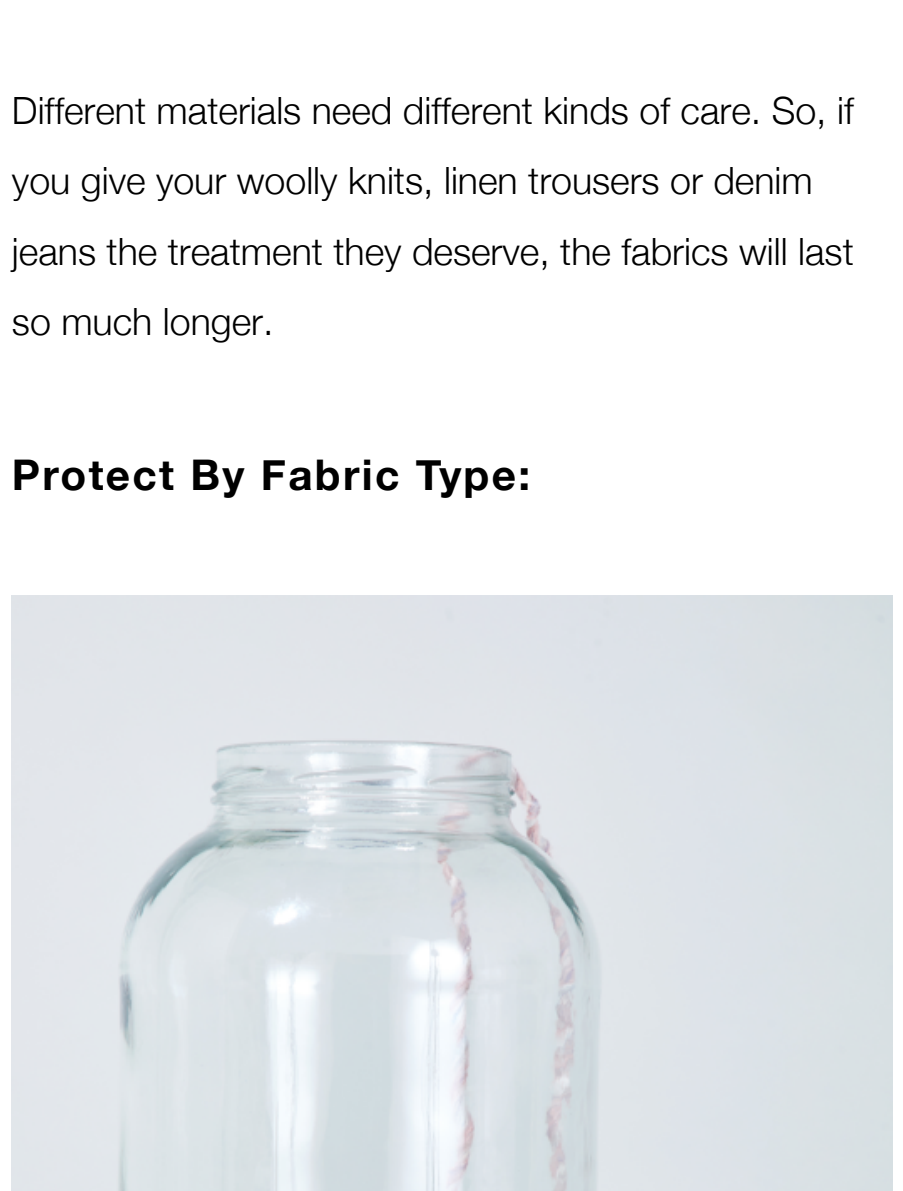
You know all the different temperature options on your washing machine? Forget them - you only need two. Make 30 ºC your standard option, and wash your bed linen, sheets and towels at 60ºC.

5. Protect Your Delicates

They're called delicate for a reason after all, so make sure to put them in a wash protection bag before they go in your machine. Opt for a bag made from a breathable fabric where possible, as otherwise mildew may develop.

6. Leave Your Tumble Dryer Alone

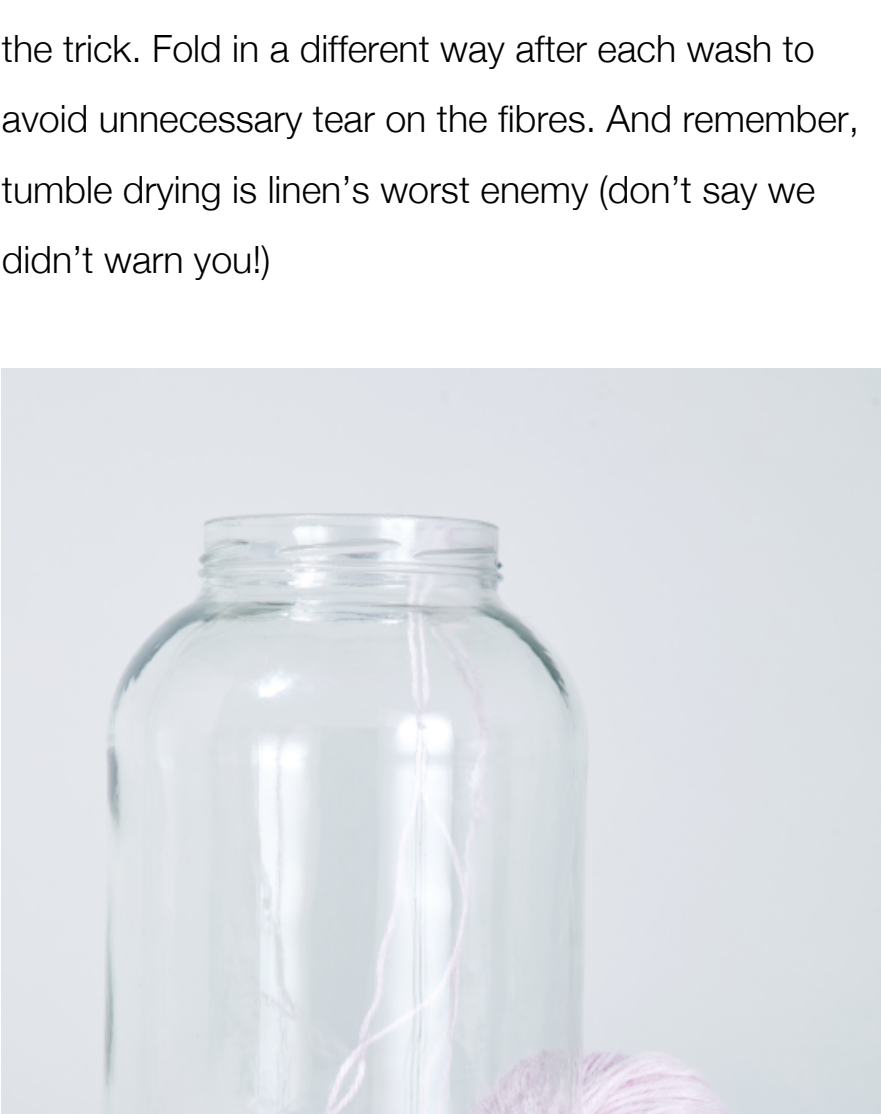
Tumble drying has a high energy consumption and high risk of shrinking clothes. Luckily, most garments last longer if they can air dry. To avoid the disappointment of a misshapen jumper, flat dry knitwear using a towel to gently roll it up and absorb any excess water.



Care Better

Different materials need different kinds of care. So, if you give your woolly knits, linen trousers or denim jeans the treatment they deserve, the fabrics will last so much longer.

Protect By Fabric Type:



Linen

More good news: linen is naturally dirt and stain repellent, so a cool wash and a gentle spin should do the trick. Fold in a different way after each wash to avoid unnecessary tear on the fibres. And remember, tumble drying is linen's worst enemy (don't say we didn't warn you!)

Wool (including merino wool and cashmere)

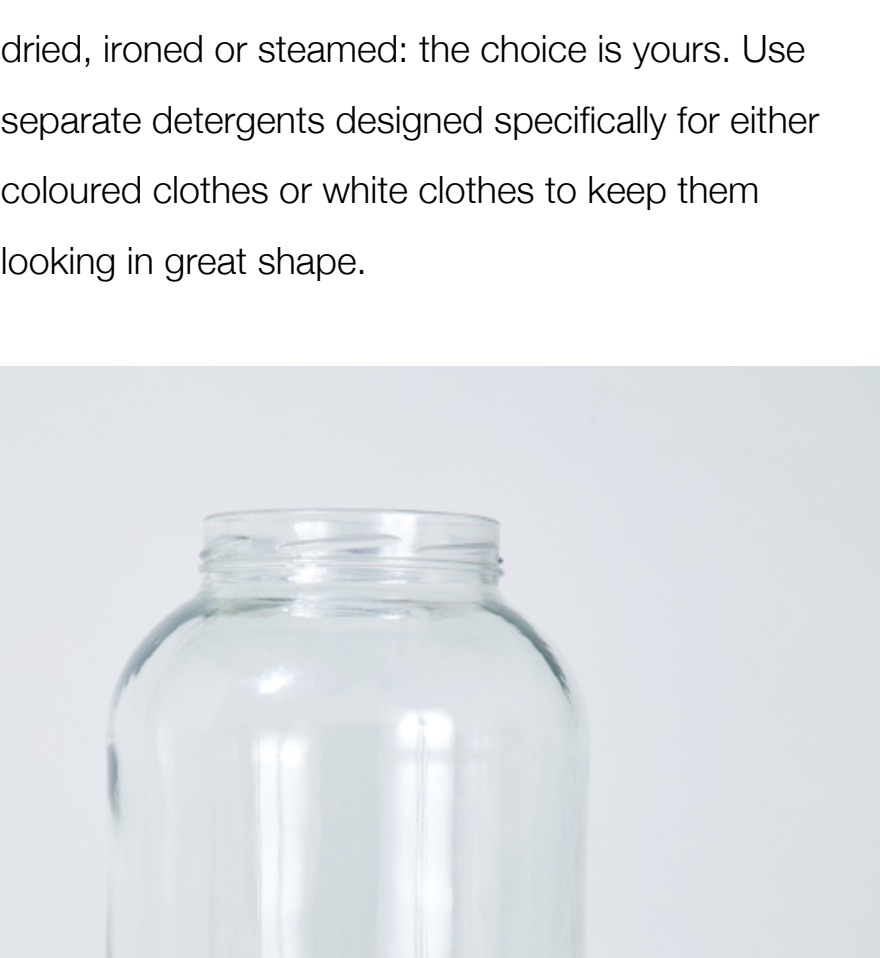
Wool garments are naturally anti-bacterial so they can be washed very infrequently, with a delicate wash detergent. Air them, mist them and keep them folded in a drawer, as hanging may stretch them.

Polyester

Polyester can be spun into anything from sheer dresses to NASA spacesuits. However, it may release microplastics when washed. Wash infrequently using a Guppyfriend bag - a great little washing bag that filters out the particles to stop them getting into the sea.

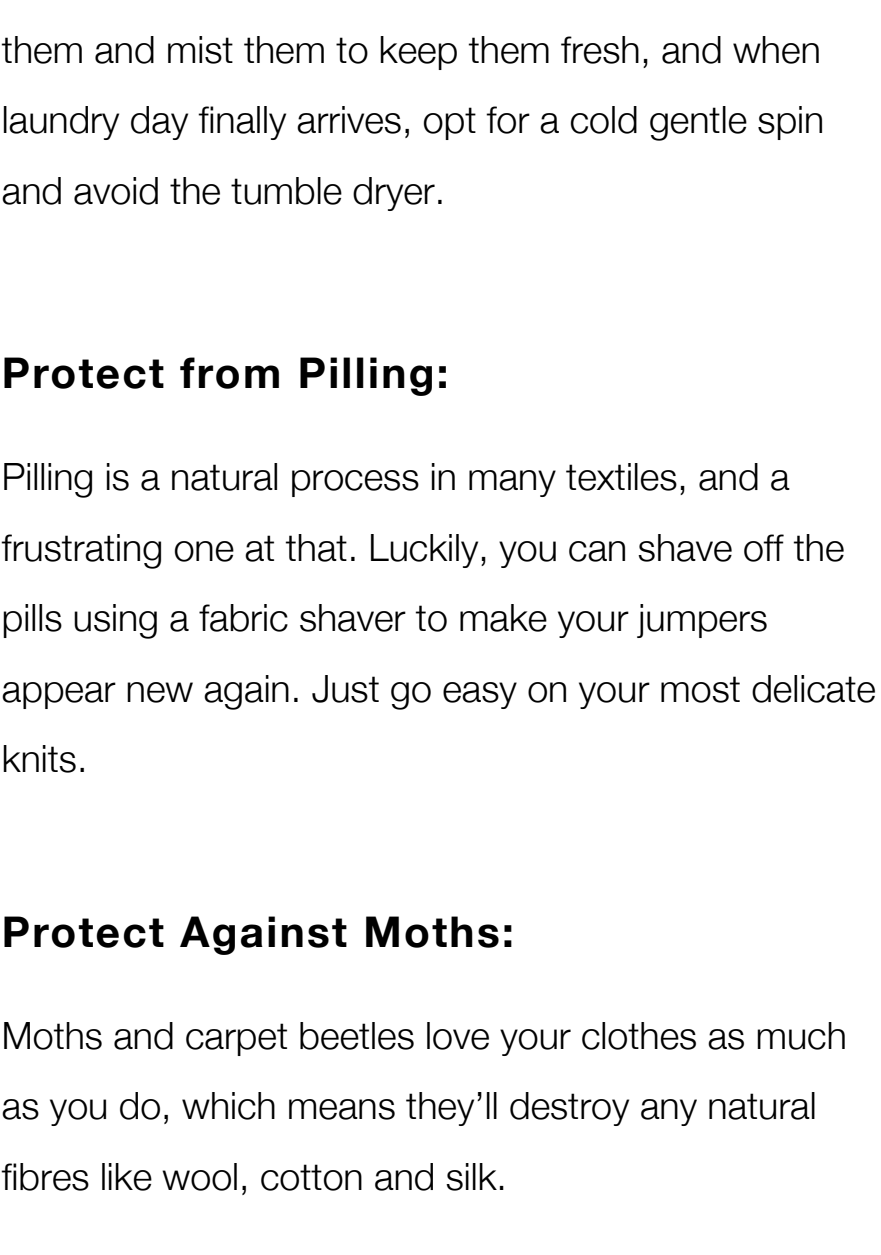
Silk

The best way to care for your sleekest, silkiest garments is to cool hand wash with a delicate wash detergent. Avoid ironing in case you create an unwanted scorch mark (so easily done) and follow the care label as some silks should be dry-cleaned.



Cotton

You'll probably be relieved to find out that cotton garments aren't that sensitive. They can be tumble dried, ironed or steamed: the choice is yours. Use separate detergents designed specifically for either coloured clothes or white clothes to keep them looking in great shape.



Denim

Denim can be washed so infrequently that you can go months in between washing your favourite jeans. Air them and mist them to keep them fresh, and when laundry day finally arrives, opt for a cold gentle spin and avoid the tumble dryer.

Protect from Pilling:

Pilling is a natural process in many textiles, and a frustrating one at that. Luckily, you can shave off the pills using a fabric shaver to make your jumpers appear new again. Just go easy on your most delicate knits.

Protect Against Moths:

Moths and carpet beetles love your clothes as much as you do, which means they'll destroy any natural fibres like wool, cotton and silk.

Our 4 tips for staying moth-free:

- Place moth crystals or mothballs directly on piles of folded clothes
- Concentrated cedar oil spray is an excellent natural moth repellent, but it will give your clothes a cedarwood scent
- Found your first moth-hole in your favourite jumper? Put it in the freezer for 3 days to kill the larvae, and use moth crystals or cedarwood spray in your wardrobe to ward off any further activity
- If you're suffering from a major moth problem, call a bug killing agent to get rid of them for good

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