



## Salvaging Clothing

### Cleaning Flood-Damaged Clothing

Flood water may be contaminated with sewage waste, so it is important to thoroughly clean and disinfect flood-soiled clothing to kill harmful bacteria. Prompt attention may save much of your clothing that has been damaged by flood waters. If possible, do not permit the flood water and mud to dry in shoes or garments.



### Washable Garments

- Check your care label to make sure garments are washable.
- If labeled hand washable only, then hand wash—do not put into the washing machine.
- If garment is dry, brush off loose dirt and residue.
- Rinse in clean, cool water to remove mud and flood water. This will take several rinses until rinse water is clear.
- Work a heavy duty detergent (liquid) or paste of granule detergent into all stained areas. Let stand 30 minutes.
- Follow care labels and wash in hottest water safe for garment with detergent. Use bleach if recommended for garment.
- Sanitize with a disinfectant. Always test on an inconspicuous seam to be sure it does not harm the garment. Add to washing machine before adding clothing. Some disinfectants to try are:
  - Liquid chlorine bleach (Clorox, Purex) if safe. Do not use on washable wools and silks. Follow directions carefully.
  - Pine oil (Pine-O-Pine, Fyne Pine) is safe for most washable garments. Do not use on washable wools and silks since the odor will remain.
  - Phenolic (Pine-Sol, Al-Pine) is safe for most washable garments. Do not use on washable wools and silks since the odor will remain.
- Hang garments to dry.

This document is IFAS publication DH 525.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from: Fact Sheet HE-4122, rev. (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida). Developed by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service for the benefit of Florida's citizens.



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension  
Delaware County  
607-865-6531

Resource Center  
34570 St Hwy 10  
PO Box 184  
Hamden NY 13782

## Dry-Cleanable Clothing

Take to the dry cleaner as soon as possible. Be sure to shake and brush well to remove as much dirt as possible. Give the dry cleaner as much information as possible about:

- What caused the damage.
- The fiber content of the fabric, if known.



## When Dry Cleaning Service is Not Available

### Garments Still Damp With Muddy Water

- ① Rinse in cold water to remove water-soluble, clay-type soil.  
Rinse garment as quickly as possible to avoid bleeding of dyes and to keep shrinkage to a minimum.
- ② Gently squeeze out excess water and shake out wrinkles.  
Rolling in dry towels will help remove excess water.
- ③ Place garment on hanger and dry in cool air or smooth it out on flat surface to dry.

### Garments That Are Only Partly Wet

- ① Try to rinse out the wet portion without dipping the entire garment in cold water. If this cannot be done without leaving a strong stain line, it is better to dip the entire garment.
- ② Shake out wrinkles and dry in cool air.



### Dry Garments With Soil in Them

The soil may be difficult to remove. Shake well to remove as much soil as possible before sending to the dry cleaner.

### Wet Garments, But Not Soiled

Dry in cool air to prevent mildew and transfer of dye.



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## About Mildew

If the garment is mildewed:

- ① Go outside to brush off garment.
- ② Rub liquid (or paste of granular) detergent into stain.
- ③ Launder using detergent and bleach (follow care label) and hottest water safe for fabric.

Some mildew may be too severe to be removed.

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## Leather and Suede Garments and Accessories

Leather and suede garments, shoes, belts and handbags should be allowed to dry away from direct heat. Then:

- ① Brush off as much mud as possible.
- ② Use mild soap suds and cool water to wipe off remaining dirt.
- ③ Rinse with clean water and wipe gently with clean cloth until all dirt is removed. Do not get the leather or suede too wet while cleaning.
- ④ Stuff shoes, handbags and sleeves with paper to maintain their shape.
- ⑤ Dry away from sun and heat.
- ⑥ Clean with saddle soap.
- ⑦ Use an oil for leather or suede to soften and prevent stiffening. This oil may darken the leather, so check before using.
- ⑧ Use a suede brush to restore its original appearance. Be sure to brush in only one direction.



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