DRYING AND FOLDING TIPS
for modern home laundering

E 681
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
JANUARY, 1958
Hanging your wash properly saves time and energy as well as wear on clothes. Here are some suggestions for hanging articles so they will be easy to iron and fold:

- Sort articles as they come from the washer according to:
  1. Items to be starched.
  2. Items to be sprinkled, but not starched.
  3. Flat pieces which will be folded as they are taken from the line.
  4. Clothing which will need no ironing.
  5. Articles you will want to take from the line when right for ironing.

- Hang small, straight articles such as handkerchiefs, diapers, and wash cloths evenly on the line. Attach clothespins to strongest points of articles. (Hanging by corners causes "dog-ears").
- Place sheets (hems together), pillow cases, table cloths, and other flat articles with a 6 to 8-inch turn over the line. Pin small pieces at both ends, larger ones at ends and middle.
- Hang shirts by tail with a turnover of 6 inches. Pin at sides and center. Straighten collars and cuffs.
- Hang shorts and trousers by waist. Pants hangers can be used for trousers.
- Hang dresses by shoulder seams or on rust-proof hangers.
- Fold nightgowns and similar articles over line and pin at side seams.
- Place heavy articles such as blankets and quilts over two parallel lines to speed up drying and distribute weight.

When drying outside avoid hanging clothes in a whipping wind. A taut clothes line running east and west will prevent some wrapping and twisting of articles.

The sun will bleach white linens and cottons. White rayons, silks and woolens will tend to yellow in the sun. These and colored clothing should be hung in the shade whenever possible.
Miles can be turned into smiles with an automatic dryer. Tests show that a dryer can save you approximately 40 miles of walking and 20 eight-hour days each year. Also, a dryer can make your schedule more flexible since wash day doesn’t depend on the weather.

**When using a dryer...**

- Remove clothes as soon as the drying cycle is completed. Underestimate length of drying time rather than overestimate. Overdrying makes some fabrics feel harsh and may cause knitwear to shrink. Overdrying causes unnecessary wrinkles which may be very hard to remove from synthetic fabrics.
- Dry together items of about the same weight of fabric for most uniform drying. If you do dry mixed loads, set the timer according to the time needed for the lighter fabrics.
- Dry starched clothes with other starched articles only. A dryer calls for heavier starch, the same amount as needed for drying outdoors on a windy day. For a glossy finish, let starched clothes dry completely, then sprinkle.

*Note—After drying a load of heavily starched clothes, wipe the inside of the drum thoroughly with a soapy damp cloth or tumble a load of wet rags to remove any starch from the drum.*

- Dry together articles that need ironing and remove from the dryer at the right degree of dampness. They can be ironed at this time or folded for ironing later.
- Dampen or re-dampen clothes for ironing by putting them in the dryer with a wet towel or two and tumbling for 5 minutes.
- Take corduroy, chenille and terry cloth articles out of dryer with a bit of moisture remaining in them. Shake briskly for added fluffiness.
- Remove quilted cottons before entirely dry and block back to original size by pressing.
• Fold articles as you take them from the line or dryer.
• Place together folded pieces which are to be stored without ironing. (The less you iron your linens the longer they will last.)
• In general, fold pieces lengthwise and then crosswise.
• When dampening clothes to be ironed, fold them loosely rather than too tightly.

Folding The Fitted Sheet

METHOD 1

1. Fold sheet in ½ lengthwise, selvage edges together, corners right side out and hanging loosely. Mfr.'s label showing.

2. With left hand, pick up extreme left top corner of sheet. With right hand, tuck fitted corners inside each other, lining up seams. Fold corner toward you.

*If your sheets are of different sizes it is desirable to fold them so that label will show.
3. Left end of sheet should look like this. If bottom sheet, reverse procedure for other end.

4. Bottom sheet should look like this.

5. Now fold sheet in ½ by bringing center fold over to selvage edges.

6. To store, fold both ends to middle and fold back in ½ again, being sure Mfr.'s label shows.*
METHOD II

1. Hold sheet wrong side up.\(^1\) Let corner number 4 be the one with Mfr.’s label.\(^2\)

2. Place left hand under 1st corner against right side. Place right hand under 2nd corner in same manner. Fold 2nd corner over 1st corner placing wrong sides together. Use left thumb and forefinger to grasp inner edges of both corners.

3. Place right hand in third corner against wrong side. Fold 3rd corner over 2nd, placing right sides together. Use left thumb and forefinger in same manner as before.

---

(1) Directions are given for sheets with label on right side. If label is on wrong side of sheet, you will need to begin folding with sheet right side up.

(2) If your sheers are of different sizes it is desirable to fold them so that label will show.
4. Place right hand in 4th corner against right side. Fold 4th corner over 3rd corner placing wrong sides together. (Mfr.'s label showing).

5. Continue to hold corners with left hand. Smooth side selvages with right hand and shake sheet to straighten.

6. Shift corners from left to right hand. Smooth end selvages with left hand. Catch end selvages with left hand and line up with side selvages.

7. Fold to fit storage leaving label exposed.
METHOD III

This method is a time saver when sheets are line-dried.
1. Hang sheet on line as shown at right. For faster drying, pin only side selvages to line so that corners will hang free.

2. Remove sheet from line with accordion fold. Complete folding for storage.

---

**Bulletin At A Glance**

- Line Drying Tips .................. 2
- Drying the Automatic Way ...... 3
- Folding Tips ...................... 4
- Folding the Fitted Sheet .......
  - METHOD I ....................... 4
  - METHOD II ...................... 6
  - METHOD III .................... 8

University of Missouri College of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

C. B. Ratchford, Director, Agricultural Extension Service
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914