



Laundering Cottons and Linens

In washing old and delicate cottons and linens, one must take the utmost care and exercise constant attention. This is not a job to undertake in bits and snatches.

For plain white fabrics, which have yellowed: soak in a solution of sodium perborate (two tablespoons completely dissolved in a gallon of lukewarm water). Change the water after ten minutes. Continue to change frequently as long as very dark color comes from the fabric. Then soak until you are satisfied that it is as white as it will come. In many cases it will not hurt to soak overnight. Be sure to check frequently to be sure there is no significant weakening and to change water whenever it becomes very dark. I have soaked sturdy things for several days and had excellent results.

When using sodium perborate be sure to rinse thoroughly; any residue left in the fabric is harmful in the long run. It will also scorch badly when the piece is ironed. If white fabrics are extremely delicate, it is a good idea to wash them in a gallon jar using a slight rocking motion as the only agitation.

For light colored fabrics: test a small sample for colorfastness with solution to be used. If the color should fade, do not use sodium perborate. If there is a problem with the dyes, wash gently in soft water with a neutral detergent such as Orvus and rinse thoroughly. Some dyes may need to be set with a solution of salt water before washing. Others may only be dry cleaned safely.

CARE OF TEXTILES AND COSTUMES Cleaning and Storage Techniques

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The information provided here is for suggestion only, and is not the advise of Talas. Testing should always precede application, and all proper literature checked before use.