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What the washing symbols mean Before you

put your clothes in the washing machine, it's a good idea to have a handle on the washing symbols. Get an overview of what the different symbols mean.



The washing symbols tell you how to wash the clothes so that they still retain their shape, color and quality.

Samvirke has an explanation of what the different washing symbols, which can be divided into different categories, mean.

Those with the degrees:



The number in the bowl of water tells you how hot you can wash the laundry. If the water says 30, the clothes can withstand washing at 30 degrees. The same goes for 40, 60 and 95.

One line under the bowl of water means that the clothes should be washed on a gentle program in the washing machine. Gentle means more water and fewer drum movements.

Two lines under the symbol mean that the clothes should be washed extra gently – for example on a wool program.

A hand in the water means that the clothes should be hand washed. A cross over the bowl of water means that the clothes should not be washed at all.

Drying symbols:



The symbols related to drying clothes are typically square.

A dot in a circle means that the clothes can be tumble dried – but at a low temperature.

Two dots in the circle and you can dry the clothes at normal temperature in a tumble dryer.

If there is a cross over the circle inside a square, the clothes must not be tumble dried.

A horizontal line means that the clothes should be dried lying down. If there is a diagonal line in the corner, the clothes should be dried in the shade. The clothes can be dried over a towel if necessary.

Vertical lines mean that the clothes should be drip-dried. A diagonal line in the corner means that the clothes should be dried in the shade.

Dry cleaning:



A circle with a letter is an instruction to the dry cleaner. The letter indicates which liquid the dry cleaner should use to get your coat clean, for example.

A line under the circle means that the dry cleaner should use gentle cleaning.

Bleaching



Occasionally, it may be necessary to bleach clothes a little. The triangle is the symbol used when washing instructions indicate bleaching.

A triangle with a cross over it means that you should avoid bleaching the clothes altogether.

A white triangle means that all bleaching agents are permitted.

A triangle with two diagonal lines means that you can bleach – just not with chlorine.

When you iron your clothes



The iron reveals that the symbols are about ironing.

One dot on the iron means that the temperature of the iron must not exceed 110 degrees. Ironing with steam may cause reduce the quality of the clothing or damage the fabric.

Two dots – then ironing at up to 150 degrees is perfectly fine.

Three dots provide options for ironing up to 200 degrees.

A cross over the iron means that ironing and steam treatment should be avoided.

The article was first published in 2011. The article is updated with symbol explanations in June 2017.

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