NO PREP

Laundry SOS

Decode Your Clothes Labels

Includes: Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

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Name: Period: Date:

Laundry SOS: Decode Your Clothes Labels

Focus

Feeling lost in the laundry aisle? Don't worry, this guide is here to help! Decipher the cryptic symbols on your clothes tags and become a laundry master. Learn how to sort clothes properly, choose the right washing machine settings, and conquer common laundry woes like shrinkage and color bleeding. Taking care of your clothes is an essential life skill that saves you money, extends the life of your garments, and keeps you looking your best!

Why is Laundry Care Important for Teens?

Proper laundry care is important. Following care instructions helps prevent shrinkage, fading, and damage to your clothes, ultimately saving you money on replacing them.

Cracking the Laundry Code: Understanding Care Labels

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Cracking the Laundry Code: Understanding Care Labels

Clothes tags are more than just a place for the brand name! They feature laundry care symbols that provide vital information on how to wash and dry your clothes properly. Let's break the code and unveil the meaning behind these symbols: Washing Temperature: A washbasin symbol with water lines or dots indicates the recommended water temperature. More lines or dots signify warmer water. Gentle Cycle: A washbasin symbol with one or two lines underneath signifies a delicate cycle for fragile garments. Do Not Bleach: A crossed-out triangle with a bleach symbol inside means avoid using bleach on the garment. Drying Instructions: A square symbol with a circle inside represents drying. Dots inside the circle indicate the drying temperature setting.

Pro Tip

: Always check the care label before washing a new garment for the first time! This will help you avoid any laundry disasters.

The Art of Sorting Laundry: Color and Fabric Harmony

Sorting your clothes properly is the first step to laundry success. Here are some key sorting principles: Separate by Color: Wash lights (whites, pastels) and darks (blacks, navies) separately to prevent color bleeding. Group by Fabric Type: Wash clothes made from similar fabrics (cotton, synthetics, delicates) together to ensure the appropriate wash cycle and drying temperature. Heavy fabrics like denim may require a stronger cycle than delicate silks or knits.

Sorting Laundry Tips:

Turn clothes inside out before washing to protect any embellishments or fading. Empty pockets and close zippers or buttons before washing to prevent snags or damage to other garments. Pretreat any stains before washing for a higher chance of successful stain removal.

Conquering Common Laundry Catastrophes: Troubleshooting Laundry Woes

Even laundry masters face occasional mishaps. Don't fret! Here's how to troubleshoot some common laundry problems: Shrinkage: This often occurs when washing clothes in hot water when a cold wash was recommended. Always check the care label for temperature instructions. Color Bleeding: Separate lights and darks to prevent color transfer. If color bleeding does occur, try soaking the affected garment in a solution of cold water and white vinegar. Fading: Washing in hot water or excessive sunlight exposure can contribute to fading. Use cold water for delicate fabrics and air-dry clothes whenever possible to minimize fading.

Pro Tip

: Read the care label carefully and follow the recommended washing instructions to minimize the risk of laundry mishaps.

Washing Machine Wizardry: Mastering the Settings

Understanding your washing machine settings is key to achieving optimal laundry results. Here's a quick breakdown of common settings: Water Temperature: Choose

the appropriate water temperature based on the care label and fabric type. Cold water is gentler on clothes and helps prevent shrinkage and fading. Wash Cycle: Select a cycle that corresponds to the fabric type and level of soil. Delicate cycle for delicates, heavy-duty cycle for towels and jeans, etc. Spin Speed: A higher spin speed removes more water from clothes, reducing drying time. However, a lower spin speed might be gentler on delicate garments.

Drying Dilemmas

Similar to washing machines, dryers offer various settings. Consult the care label and choose the appropriate drying temperature and cycle to avoid shrinkage or damage. Whenever possible, air-drying clothes is the most gentle option, especially for delicates.

Case Study: The Mystery of the Shrunken Sweater

Maya loved her favorite cozy sweater, but after one wash cycle, it mysteriously shrunk and became unwearable. She has no idea what went wrong!

1. According to the reading, why is following laundry care instructions important?

2. How can proper laundry care benefit you in the long run?

3. What might have caused Maya's sweater to shrink?

4. How could Maya have prevented this laundry mishap by following laundry care instructions?

_____

_____

Multiple Choice

1. Why is it important to follow laundry care instructions?

    a) It ensures your clothes will always fit perfectly.

    b) It prevents damage to your clothes and saves you money.

    c) It guarantees your clothes will never stain or get dirty.

    d) It makes laundry day more fun and exciting.

2. What does a washbasin symbol with one or two lines underneath typically mean?

    a) Use the delicate cycle for gentle washing.

    b) Wash in hot water with a strong spin cycle.

    c) This garment requires dry cleaning only.

    d) The garment needs to be air-dried only.

3. How can sorting your laundry by color help prevent laundry mishaps?

    a) It ensures all your clothes wrinkle less.

    b) It shortens the drying time for all your clothes.

    c) It prevents color bleeding from dark clothes to lighter ones.

    d) It reduces the amount of laundry detergent you need for each load.

Matching

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

Term	Definition
1. ___ Washing Machine with Cold Water Symbol	A) Tumble dry at the temperature the dots show.
2. ___ Square with a Circle Inside with Three Dots	B) Treating stains before washing so they are more likely to come out.
3. ___ Crossed-out Triangle with Bleach Symbol Inside	C) Removes more water from clothes and cuts drying time.
4. ___ Higher Spin Speed	D) Do not bleach this garment.
5. ___ Pretreating Stains	E) Wash in cold water, the recommended water temperature.

Fill-in-the-Blank

1. Two key factors to consider when sorting laundry are _____ and _____.

2. Washing clothes in hot water when a cold wash is recommended can lead to _____.

3. To minimize fading, choose a wash cycle with _____ water and consider _____ drying whenever possible.

Short Answer

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. Refer to the case study "The Mystery of the Shrunken Sweater." Explain how Maya could have prevented her sweater from shrinking by following laundry care instructions.

2. Describe two additional laundry tips that can help you achieve clean and fresh clothes.

3. Why is it important to read the care label before washing a new garment? What information can you typically find on a care label?