# Handy Washing Tips

## Summer Uniform

For the optimum longevity of your daughter's summer dress here are some handy hints:-

- Reduce your spin cycle speed and hang your dress on a hanger to reduce ironing needs.
- If your dress requires ironing the shop suggests you iron the dress inside out. This will also reduce fading from heat & steam on seam lines.
- Hang your dress inside out on a coat hanger to dry to reduce fading.
- DO NOT use or soak your dresses in Napisan. Napisan is a mild bleach and will slowly fade out the colour in the dress. For removing stains the shop recommends either Napisan De-greaser spray or rubbing Sard Wonder Soap directly onto the stain.
- If you have a front loader washing machine we suggest you put the dresses on a cotton wash, (longer cycle), once a month to remove ingrained dirt from the fibers.
- If you have a stain that you cannot remove give the shop a call for advice.

**Straw Hats:-**

Here is a handy washing tip to get your daughters summer straw hat looking its best:-

1. Fill up your laundry trough or a large bucket with luke warm water.
2. Dissolve 1-2 large scoops of Napisan powder into the water.
3. Place straw hat into the trough or bucket, (brim turned down), making sure the water level completely covers the hat.
4. Soak for 3 – 4 hours.
5. If there are any stubborn stain that has not been remove by the soaking gently scrub with a toothbrush.
6. Once soaking is completed, rinse under running water and peg hat on the line to dry or lay hat on a flat surface, making sure the brim is turned down.

## Winter Uniform

The majority of the winter uniforms has a large percentage of wool, normally 70-80%. The winter uniform requires extra care, more so than summer & sport uniforms. The tendency is to over wash, so in this case less is better!

- **Blazer: -** The shop recommends the winter blazer be dry cleaned twice a year, once during the July school holiday and again at the end of winter ready for storage, unless required otherwise.

- **Jumper & Skirt: -** The wool skirt and jumper can be hand washed or machine washed on your wool cycle. The shop suggests you turn both items inside out and place within a pillowslip and wash with a recommended commercial wool cleaner i.e., (Martha Gardener Eucalypts Wool Wash or Softly). This will reduce pilling effects on the wool fibers. Lay the jumper out on a towel on a flat surface to dry. Hang the skirt inside out and press pleats in from the inside. The shop recommends you wash the jumper & skirt twice a term **only**, during the boarder's long weekend and during the school holiday break, unless otherwise required.

- **White Blouses:** - The shop highly recommends you only wash your shirts with other white clothes as any colours, even pastels, can be absorbed by natural fibers i.e. cottons. Over time this will give your white blouses a grey tinge. The shop recommends 3 white blouses per student.

- **Tie:** - If your daughter has the pinstripe tie the shop recommends the same as the blazer, dry cleaning. For the tartan tie the shop recommends the same washing as the jumper & skirt.

# General Stains

## Liquid Paper:-

Ever been frustrated when your daughter brings her uniform home with liquid paper stains! How do I remove the stains? I have the answer, proven and tested!!

1. Scrape off as much as you can with a blunt round knife or spoon.
2. Spray Windex directly onto the liquid paper spot front & back.
3. Using a tooth brush scrub the Windex into the stain, until liquid paper has been removed. This may take a few attempts before completely removing all the liquid paper out of the fabric grains.
4. Spray normal stain remover on any leftover residue and wash as per normal.

## Paint Stains:-

There's a fair chance your daughter will return home from school with a paint stain at some point. The key to removing paint stains lies in identifying the type of paint - is it oil-based or a water-based acrylic? The best way to work out what type of paint stain you're dealing with is to read the label on the paint tube (or contact the art teacher and ask). From there you can move onto proper stain removal.

**WET Acrylic or water-based paint stains**: Getting your daughter to do this immediately will maximize the best result, while the paint is still wet on her uniform.

1. Using a spoon or dull knife, scoop up as much paint as possible, before blotting gently with a cloth. Try to stop the paint stain from drying out.
2. Using a sponge, work a detergent and water mix directly into the water-based paint, rubbing gently in between your fingers, rinsing thoroughly. Gently use a tooth brush to work the detergent in-between the fibers, rinse thoroughly.
3. Keep repeating this process until most of the stain has disappeared from the clothing.
4. If you notice some of the paint stain remaining, apply a touch of nail polish remover on an absorbent cloth and blot, before rinsing well again
5. Repeat above process until stain has completely been removed.
6. Launder as per normal.

**DRIED-on water-based or acrylic paint stain**:-

1. Brush off as much of the dried paint stain as possible with a hard bristled brush.
2. Apply a soapy water mix or gently dabbing on a varnish remover with a clean cloth. Once the paint stain has softened in the clothing, scrape off as much as possible (testing for colour fastness).
3. Then, work a detergent mix into the stain, as above, and follow the same steps until the dried paint stain has been removed.

**WET oil-based paint stain**:-

1. Remove as much of the paint as possible with a knife or spoon before blotting and rinsing well.
2. Place the fabric stain-side down over an absorbent cloth, before sponging the back of the garment with a touch of turpentine (keeping an eye on the colours to make sure they don't run).
3. Continue this process until the stain disappears, replacing the cloth underneath when it becomes wet. DO NOT RINSE
4. Follow by rubbing in a good quality laundry detergent before soaking in hot water overnight (occasionally rubbing the stain gently with tooth brush), before rinsing.

5. Wash as per garment normal.

**DRIED oil-based paint stain:-** Has dried into the clothing.

1. Brush off as much as you can with a hard bristled brush, and if you have access to the paint tin or can, read to see if it contains directions for their preferred paint-remover and apply.
2. Once the stain has loosened and becomes wet again, scrape off as much as possible before following the above steps to remove a wet oil-based paint stain.

In general, oil-based stains should be treated immediately by applying white spirit or turpentine from the reverse side of the fabric - though not on fabrics like rayon, acetate or triacetate. If the paint is allowed to dry, a skin forms and the stain is impossible to remove. But remember there are many different paints and it is best to consult the paint manufacturer for specific advice.

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