

**TO WASH PRINTED INDIA MUSLINS WITH FAST COLORS.**—Make a suds of good hard soap, and squeeze them through it carefully, without rubbing; repeat the process three times, each suds being no warmer than blood heat. If the groundwork is white, put it in clear cold suds, and heat it boiling hot; after it has boiled three minutes, rinse it in soft water until the rinsing water is perfectly clear; then take three gallons of clear spring water, mix with it eighty drops of the elixir of vitriol, and one gallon of rice-water, made by boiling a pound of rice in four quarts of water until perfectly soft, adding boiling water to the rice, as fast as it evaporates, so that it is boiling in the first quantity constantly; it should be frequently stirred, and broken as much as possible while cooking. When the rice is dissolved as much as it will, pour the whole into the water and vitriol, strain it all through a thick cloth, and rinse the muslin in it; wring the dress as dry as possible, shake it out well, and hang it in the shade, until sufficiently dry to iron. Press it on a skirt-board, on the wrong side. If the waist is so made that this cannot be done, lay a thin cloth between the muslin and the iron, and press until quite dry.

**TO WASH MUSLINS OF DOUBTFUL COLORS.**—Take rice-water, and wash them quickly, without soap, until perfectly clean. If there is grease to be removed, or soil from the skin, rub the spots with the yolk of eggs, and wash it as though the egg was soap; rinse in hard water, and to the second rinsing add, to each gallon of water, forty drops of elixir of vitriol; strain the water, after adding the vitriol, that it may be thoroughly mixed through; wring dry; hang it in the shade, wrong side out, where it will get the air and dry quickly; fold as soon as sufficiently dry, and iron in two hours, on the wrong side.

**PRINTS WITH FAST COLORS.**—These should be washed in warm suds, and scalded, if the ground is white, by pouring boiling water over them, but if dark, the scalding should be omitted. Rinse thoroughly, and add a little starch to the last water, merely sufficient to give them a fresh look, without stiffening them. Iron as soon as possible, after being starched. Prints soon sour.

**TO WASH DOUBTFUL COLORED PRINTS.**—Prepare, before commencing, two tubs of suds, made of hard soap; throw in each a handful of salt; strain the suds, or bits of soap may come in contact with, and spot the print. Have three rinsing waters ready, in the last put forty drops to the gallon of elixir of vitriol, and a teaspoonful of dissolved gum-arabic to each gallon of hard water; strain the prepared water through a thick cloth. Look over the dress, and rub

yolk of eggs instead of soap, on all grease spots, and wash them, in clear warm water, until they are removed; after which, pass it through two suds, rinse in two waters, and lastly, in the water with the vitriol and gum; wring dry, hang in the shade, where it will quickly dry from wind, and press it on the wrong side.

**SWISS MUSLIN, INDIA,** and other thin muslins, should be gently squeezed but never rubbed. These and all handkerchiefs, collars, and small articles, should be boiled in bags for the purpose, made sufficiently large to allow them to be rinsed, ready to put on the clothes-line, without removing them from the bag. In hanging such articles to dry, care is needed to prevent their being torn or soiled; they should be pinned to sheets, or other large articles, instead of the line, and be taken in, as soon as dry. Rice-water is very nice for all thin muslins; requiring but little starch; the iron does not stick as badly with rice as other starch. Iron all muslins, if possible, on the wrong side.

**TO WASH MOURNING PRINTS.**—The suds should be very weak, and prepared as directed for prints with doubtful colors, omitting the vitriol; ox-gall is excellent for setting the color of black prints, but the odor is disagreeable to most persons.

**FLANNELS** should be washed in tepid water; no soap should be rubbed on them, if possible to cleanse them without. Suds should be prepared for the whole process before wetting the flannels; generally two suds are necessary, and two rinsings for fine flannels; the water should be barely softened for the last rinsing with toilette soap, or liquid ammonia; a teaspoonful of the ammonia to a gallon of water is sufficient. Each suds and rinsing water should be the same heat. Hot or cold water shrinks woollens, more than tepid water. New white flannels should soak in good suds all night, to remove the gluten, that is always in them, or when washed they will look spotted. If flannels are washed with the hand, the shrinkage will be less than if rubbed on the board. Blue white flannels a trifle in the last rinse; wring dry, and snap them out until there are no wrinkles left from the wringing; hang them in the shade to dry, and press them slowly with heavy irons until perfectly dry; if embroidered, iron the embroidery on the wrong side, on the soft side of the skirt-board. If skirts, use the dress-board to press them on. If bound with linen or cotton, rinse the bindings in boiling soft water, after the article is rinsed, without wetting the flannel; wring the binding in a towel as dry as possible,

hang it to dry by the binding, and iron the binding before the other part of the garment.

Nice fine white woollen hose, if washed, and dried on frames, the shape of the stocking will never shrink; black or colored woollen stockings, to be washed well, will need two suds; the first suds the stocking should be rubbed well, and turned, and afterwards, if much soiled, rubbed through another, rinsed quickly, wrung dry, pulled in shape, and dried in the shade. White woollen stockings ought to be washed with as much care as fine flannels, and in the same manner.

PRINTED DELAINES need careful washing. The skirts ought to be ripped from the waist, and if desired to look like new, the whole dress must be ripped up. Wash quickly in from one to two suds prepared as for mourning prints, adding ox-gall, if possible, to the water; rinse as directed in doubtful prints, or substitute strong vinegar or alum for the vitriol, and twice as much gum-arabic; iron it on the wrong side; as soon as the iron will pass over it without sissing, until perfectly dry. If the linings are left in, dry the dress, and iron in the same manner as a print.

TO WASH COLORED MERINOES AND PLAIN DELAINES.—After the dress is ripped, look it over carefully, and rub on each grease or badly soiled spot the yolk of eggs; let it remain on the dress until the next day, or longer, if convenient. Prepare weak suds, sufficient to wash each piece by itself; it will not do to put such goods in the water, to remain while the whole is being washed, neither will the same tub of suds do for each piece separate, as the dye, in the fabric, will partially destroy the alkali, so that each successive breadth will have less strength of the suds, which will give a different shade to each piece, if the color is affected by the lye in the soap. Therefore the only sure method of giving the goods the same shade and stiffness is to wash and rinse each breadth and piece by itself. Wash each part first in clear soft water about blood heat, rubbing off all the egg; then in the suds the same heat, after which give two rinsings in warm rain-water, and stiffen with gum-arabic, using for each gallon of water a table-spoonful. To prepare it for a dress, take two table-spoonfuls of the gum, and a gallon of boiling rain-water; after it is dissolved, add another gallon of cold rain-water, and strain it through a thick cloth. Take a small part for each bit of the goods, dip in the merino, wring hard, and hang it by the edge to drain, where the sun will not strike it; after it drains, take it down, and shake it until the marks of the

wringing is gone, and the water snapped out of it; roll it in a sheet for an hour, and press it slowly on the side that is to be turned in when made up. If double-width goods, fold the breadths evenly after it is ironed, lay a damp strip of cotton on the fold, and press the edge with a warm heavy iron, moving it constantly, so as not to leave the impression of the flat on the goods. The fold should be on the side it is intended to be made up.

PLAIN DELICATE COLORED MERINOES AND DELAINES.—Boil a peck of bran in a washboiler of soft water three hours; let it settle, and become cold; when clear, strain it through a thick cloth, and wash the goods in the water, passing each piece through a part of the bran-water by itself; rub it through three waters; rinse, stiffen, dry, and iron, as directed for colored goods of the same fabrics.

TO WASH PRINTED MERINOES, DELAINES, OR OTHER PRINTED WOOLLEN GOODS.—Prepare a bran-water, and wash quickly as possible, each piece by itself, as directed for delicate colored goods of the same fabrics. Rinse, stiffen, dry, and iron the same, except the addition of twenty drops to the gallon of elixir of vitriol in the stiffening water, remembering always to strain the water after putting in the vitriol. Wash articles, that are almost certain to fade, in bran-water, adding to each gallon of water twenty drops of elixir of vitriol, and dry quickly in the shade; select a windy day to wash them, and wring the article, if there are gathers or linings, in cloth, until all the moisture possible is absorbed by the cloth. Such goods ought to be washed before badly soiled, if possible.

TO WASH CHINTZ SPREADS WITH GREEN OR BLUE GROUND.—Rub them through three bran-waters; to the last, add to each gallon twenty drops of elixir of vitriol to brighten the green. Hang them up single, without wringing, to drain, where the sun cannot fade them. If double on the line, it will be too long drying, and the colors become mixed. If tapes are sewed on at regular intervals before they are wet, to hang them by, they can be fastened securely, without doubling the edge. If there is cotton quilted in the spread, rinse in clear well-water three times, without stiffening, each rinsing water containing the proper proportion of vitriol carefully strained, and wring them as dry as possible. When either the single or quilted spread drains so as to fill the lower part with water, while the top is nearly dry, wring the lower part; this will need to be repeated several times while drying. When nearly dry, fold the single spreads evenly, and roll them up for two or

three hours, after which press them slowly on the skirt-board, without doubling. The quilts, after they are nearly dry, may be stretched on frames, or the carpet, until sufficiently aired, to spread on the beds.

**TO WASH CHINTZ WITH RED GROUND, TURKEY RED, OR OTHER RED PRINTS.**—Prepare the bran-water as directed; add to each water an ounce of cream of tartar; should this not keep the color from discharging, add ten drops of the muriate of tin to each gallon of the second water; hang the chintz in the shade, after passing through three waters.

**TO WASH BROWN AND OTHER COLORED CHINTZES.**—Mix in the bran-water ox-gall, and rub each article through three bran-waters, and rinse in well-water. The water for all colored articles should never be hot. Dry in the shade.

**TO WASH SCARLET MERINOES, DELAINES, ETC.**—Prepare bran-water; to each pailful add a table-spoonful of good cream of tartar. If the color is discharged in the water, add to each gallon of water twenty drops of the muriate of tin. In the last rinse, omit bran or tin, unless the last water was colored; if so, add the tin. Press evenly, when in the proper state to iron, with as cool a flat as can be used without soiling the goods, until perfectly smooth. If the irons are very hot the goods may be discolored by the heat. In putting in the folds, be careful not to have the cloth much damp, so as to require a very hot iron, and pass it over lightly until the fold is well pressed in.

**TO WASH BLUE, BROWN, AND BLACK MERINOES, ETC.**—If there are any grease or other badly soiled spots from contact with the skin, make a paste of fuller's earth and boiling water, rub the spots with the paste, and dry it by the fire. While drying, mix in two tubs, containing two pails of soft warm water each, a half-pint of ox-gall, and four quarts of old urine in each tub, and strain the water before putting in the goods. Wash the article quickly, each breadth in a small part of the water, and afterwards rinse twice, adding gum-arabic to the last rinsing. Dry, and iron, as directed for colored merinoes. If the articles washed, are broadcloths, etc., treat the goods as follows: rinse, without stiffening, in water rather more than blood-heat, and dry them, without wringing, on the wrong side; when nearly dry pull them in shape, press them with a hot iron on the wrong side, to remove all wrinkles, and hang them up again until dry, after which

turn and brush them the wrong way of the nap, until a little rough, and then the right way until smooth. Have ready whiskey and water, half and half, with which wet a linen cloth, and wring it dry; the irons should be hot, but not scorching, and heavy; lay the wet linen over the article on the right side, and press slowly, moving the iron constantly the way of the nap. If the iron stands, it will mark the goods with its shape. Broadcloths, managed in this manner, look like new.

**GINGHAMS.**—Ginghams should be washed carefully; never allow them to lie wet or in the suds. Dark ginghams and prints should never be washed with the light; salt in the water helps to keep the colors bright. If washed in bran or rice-water, they will not fade nor be injured; dry in the shade, and iron on the wrong side.

**TO WASH EMBROIDERIES.**—Prepare a strong suds with good hard soap. Look over and mend all broken places in the work, and soak the articles until the next day. Squeeze them carefully out of the suds, passing each article through the hand several times; prepare other suds, and wash them in the same manner until the suds is left perfectly clean. If you scald them, put the collars, etc., in a bag, pour over them cold suds, heat gradually, and boil five minutes. If very yellow by lying, put them in a white earthen wash-bowl, make a nice suds, lay them in the bowl, and set it in the sun for two or three days, changing the water daily. The articles must be frequently pressed under the water, and stirred up, so as to bring each to the influence of the sun. Rinse, without wringing much, until the water is quite clear, then add a little blue to the rinsing water; strain it through a thick white cloth; dip each article in, one by one, and wring, by pressing them in a towel. If desired very stiff, dry before starching; if not, have the starch ready, dip them in while it is boiling hot, and press out all that is possible in a towel. As fast as a piece is starched, spread it on plain cotton; stretch the work properly, and roll it tightly. This has the same effect as clear starching, which not only wears the embroidery, but is very fatiguing. Iron when in a proper state, on the wrong side, using the soft side of the bosom-board. The ironing should be done slowly, with moderate irons, and it is well to lay a thin cloth over the collars on the wrong side while passing the iron over the first time. If rubbed instead of pressed, the work, if heavy, will be apt to break. The starch made from rice does not stick to the iron as badly as wheat or flour starch.

**TO IRON COTTON SHEETS.**—Cotton sheets, if folded evenly, and laid under the ironing sheet, will be well pressed by ironing the other linen. Linen sheets need hard pressing over the whole surface and both sides of the hems.

**TO WASH A WHITE COUNTERPANE.**—Soak it in a strong solution of soap and soda for forty-eight hours. If there are spots, rub them; if not, boil it one hour in a boiler of suds, with three table-spoonfuls of soda, and two of turpentine. Rinse in three waters without wringing; in the fourth rinsing put a little blue, and wring the way the warp runs. When it drains, squeeze out the water from the edges, and when partly dry spread it out carefully, that no creases from the wringing or line may be left. When dry, stretch and fold it evenly, and press it by laying a weight upon it.

**TO WASH BLANKETS.**—Wash them in good suds until quite clean; if much soiled, they will require two or three waters. Rinse them in tepid water until clear, adding to the last rinsing water a very little fine soap. Hard or hot water should never be used in washing or rinsing any woollen goods. They should be wrung very dry, snapped well to remove the wrinkles, and dried as soon as possible; when dry, press with a moderate iron until smooth.

Directions for scouring carpets, etc., and receipts for bleaching, labor-saving soap, etc., will be found in another part of this work.

**THREAD LACE TO LOOK NEW.**—Wrap bottles with cotton cloth; wrap the lace on the bottles; leaving the edge exposed at every turn; soak for two days; then boil half an hour; rinse in two clear waters, and lastly in clean, fine soap suds; hang it to dry; when nearly bone-dry, remove it; pick out the edge; pass a stiletto through the eyelets, and wrap the lace smoothly on a ribbon-block; wrap it in cloth, a little damp, one hour; then press with the hand on the block, and dry in the sun, or by the fire; when perfectly dry, lay it away on the block until needed. Sew thread lace to collars very slightly, and rip it off before washing. It looks badly stiffened, and the starch makes it tender.

**TO WASH BLACK LACE VEIL.**—Prepare two suds with fine soap and beef's gall; strain the suds; dissolve a bit of glue as large as a ten-cent piece in a gallon of water; boil and strain it. To the second suds and the glue water, add a quart of water, very darkly colored with indigo, and strained; put a pint in each. Now soak the lace in

**TO PREPARE STARCH FOR EMBROIDERIES.**—Take as much as is needed of good clean starch, that has no sour taste. A teaspoonful will starch a collar, if but one is to be done up; a table-spoonful will starch six if all the starch is squeezed back into the basin as each article is dipped. Look carefully at the starch, see that no specks of fine dust are mixed with it, mix it smoothly with cold water. Have ready clear soft water, boiling hot, in the starch basin; add a little to the starch, stir it up, and add it gradually to the boiling water; stir it until boiled perfectly clear, then boil slowly fifteen minutes, without stirring; remove the skin that forms over the top, add to each table-spoonful of starch, a bit of sperm as large as a hazel-nut. Have ready one quarter of a teaspoonful of pure loaf-sugar boiled in a table-spoonful of water, until quite clear, without scorching; remove the scum from the sugar, and mix it thoroughly in the starch; after which strain the starch hot. This can be done by using a starch bag, pressing the starch through with a spoon. Articles done up in this starch look beautifully. If it is used for plain linen collars, add a little white wax to give a polish.

**STARCH FOR HEAVY SKIRTS** can be made with wheat flour, mixed as directed for starch, adding salt instead of sperm or wax; boil until clear, and strain it through a bag while hot. Some say if the starch is salted freezing will not destroy the stiffness, but this is not so; if frozen, the articles will hardly show the starch.

**TO WASH THREAD EDGING.**—Get quart bottles that have never been used, sew around them a fold of cotton cloth, and wrap the lace carefully on them, so that the edge of the whole piece can be seen; soak it in several suds until the whole is clean. If the lace is desired white, lay the bottle in cold suds, heat it to a scald, and rinse in clear water until the water is free from soap; press it in a towel, and hang up the bottle by the neck until the lace is dry. If desired the color of new lace, rinse until clear from the soap, and then put it in a weak suds made from white toilet soap, and dry on the bottle as before directed. The suds will stiffen the lace sufficiently. When nearly dry take the lace from the bottle, pick out the edge, lay over it a cloth and press lightly, without perfectly drying the fabric, with the heat of the iron, after which roll it on a block or card until wanted.

**TO WASH SILKS.**—First know what mordants were employed by the dyers, and use those of the same nature, if possible, in the bran-water while washing. If reds, the muriate of tin; for greens, blues,

crimson, maroon, and bright yellow, use oil of vitriol. When badly soiled, the bran-water must be used alone, and the goods be rinsed in water containing the mordant. Proceed as follows: First rip the dress, and look it over; if greased, rub the spots in the yolk of egg, and let them dry; then spread the silk on a clean whitewood board, and wash each breadth with a sponge or woollen cloth, first one side, and then the other, as quickly as possible; rinse in the prepared water without wringing. If very much soiled, it may need going over twice; if so, finish the washing before drying the egg, using it after first rinsing in the water prepared. Dry in the shade, stiffen with a very small bit of gum-arabic in the last rinse, unless the silk is heavy; if so, it will look better without. The best manner in which laundry maids can iron a silk dress is, to have a nice new piece of stove pipe, which is perfectly clean, heated and placed through a stick, so that it cannot roll, the stick being longer than the pipe, and laying across the back of chairs, or on tables; let two persons take hold of the silk and draw it over the pipe until well pressed; this is much better than ironing in the usual manner. Light fawn and brown silks usually wash well, and need no mordants. Ribbons can be washed in the same manner, and ironed when dry by drawing them across the flat iron. Soft India silks can be squeezed in the water, and ironed on the wrong side with a cool iron. Black silks should be sponged in a water prepared with gall and bran-water.

**TO WASH BOMBAZINES.**—Make a good suds, add gall, and squeeze through the hand without rubbing. Rinse thoroughly, and stiffen a very little with gum-arabic. Do not wring the goods; when nearly dry, roll it in black cambric; press slowly over black with a heavy iron on the wrong side, leaving no marks of the iron, and put into it a fold as described in the directions to wash colored merinoes.

**TO WASH LACE AND EMBROIDERED CURTAINS.**—Pursue the same plan of washing as advised for embroideries. Prepare the starch in the same manner, using as much more water as is needed. Starch them in the same way, and roll them up until nearly dry enough to press. Pin sheets on the carpet, spread out the curtains, carefully shaping every scallop on the sheets, be careful to lay them perfectly straight, pin them in place, and leave them until quite dry. Barred muslins and harness pattern drapery better be ironed on the wrong side, as the trouble of spreading is much more than ironing, and they look very well ironed.

the first suds five minutes; then squeeze it, without rubbing, several minutes, and pass it through the suds; squeeze it, and shake it gently; pass it through the second suds in the same manner; then rinse in blued water; squeeze dry, and open out, and dip it up and down in the glue water; squeeze it in a towel, and open it out; shake it gently in the wind until partially dried; then pick out the edge; open the eyelets with a stiletto; spread on the carpet, or a large table, a folded blanket; cover it with black silk or cambric; pin the veil out smooth; cover it with black silk or cambric, and lay on it a marble slab, or some other flat, even weight; when it has lain one hour, fold the veil evenly, in the same manner it was originally folded; lay it on the table, and press until bone-dry. Black edging may be washed as above.

**TO RENEW BLACK TISSUE VEILS.**—Dip them in thin glue water; shake them gently until nearly dry; spread black silk or cambric on the ironing blanket, and press with a moderate iron.

**TO REMOVE WATER SPOTS FROM BLACK CRAPE.**—Clap crape, that has been wet, until dry. The best way to do this is to spread the spot on the hand, and slap it with the other until the spot disappears. If dried before the spot was noticed, it will need dampening.

**TO STIFFEN CRAPE.**—Hold crape over potatoes or rice while boiling, and let it dry by the fire.

**TO REMOVE BROKEN SPOTS FROM VELVET.**—Hold the wrong side of the velvet over steam, and while damp draw the wrong side across a clean stove-pipe, or warm iron, several times. This is the only proper method to press velvets.

**TO IRON RIBBONS.**—Heat an iron, turn it on the side, and draw the wrong side of the ribbons over it, holding them firmly to the iron. Ribbons ironed in the usual way look badly.

**TO WASH RIBBONS.**—Make a suds with fine hand soap, lay them flat on a plate, take a brush, dip it in the soap, and first brush the soiled spots; rinse it up and down in clear water, dip it in the suds, take a soft cloth and draw the ribbon through it until it looks clear, dipping the ribbon each time in the suds, but not letting it lie; rinse in the same manner, and draw it through a towel until dry, and press as above. If left to soak, the colors run and fade; if rubbed, the silk

wrinkles and will not press smooth ; if dried without rubbing through the towel, the colors will run and the ribbon will be stiff.

TO CLEANSE KID GLOVES.—Put the gloves on a person's hand ; have ready some old skim milk perfectly sweet, and some fine white soap ; dampen a soft white cloth, wrap it around the forefinger, rub it once on soap, and rub the spots from the gloves, change the place in the cloth when it looks soiled ; go over the whole gloves without wetting through ; when it is quite clean, take it off, pull and stretch the leather so as to stretch every grain several ways ; now shape the glove, and polish it with French chalk if light, or by friction of the hand if dark. White gloves may be cleansed several times in this manner ; they may be cleansed without putting on the gloves, but not as perfectly ; if allowed to dry damp, they will be ruined.

TO SAVE WET GLOVES.—If gloves are wet through by rain or perspiration, wring them in a towel, and stretch the leather until quite dry ; if dried before this can be done, wet them again, and stretch until dry.

TO WASH DOESKIN GLOVES.—Wash them in water of blood-heat, wring as dry as possible, and let them hang in the house, away from heat, until two-thirds dry ; then stretch until soft. Wash leather, used for cleaning glass or silver, may be washed as above ; also buckskin mittens, shirts, etc.