

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR A CORRECT MAINTENANCE OF THE LINEN



WASHING PROCEDURES

Washing systems are very different and vary according to habits and methods used. Therefore, it is not possible for us to give precise and detailed instructions because we cannot know which type of procedure, which chemical detergents and which type of machinery are used during each washing cycle.

For this reason, the suggestions that follow are only general; it will be useful to ask more specific information (time, quantity, loading ratios, dosage and concentrations) to the experts in machinery and detergents of the Supplying Firms.



DIFFICULT STAINS

Some stains on the linen (white or coloured) are really difficult to remove. It depends on the nature of the stains such as greases, vegetable oils, sauces or cosmetics.

In these cases, please do not use bleach for strong washings but ask to your detergent supplier for a specific product suitable for difficult stains on 100% natural linen.



NATURAL BRIGHTNESS

A characteristic of linen manufactured from natural raw materials is that its brightness, typical of the natural quality of the fibre, especially flax, gradually diminishes after a few washings.

The decrease in the natural brightness is directly proportional to the accuracy in the washing cycle.

Also the method of ironing affects the final brightness; a cotton or linen fabric keeps its own characteristic of brightness to a greater extent if calenders or roller-mangles rather than presses are used.



COLOURS - OPTICAL BLEACH

All the colours we use chosen amongst the best INDANTHRENE VAT colours which are very fast to industrial chlorine and perborate washings.

However, detergents which are normally found on the market contain a substance – the optical bleach (O.B.) – which makes “white the whitest”.

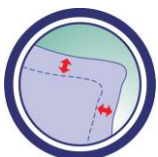
When these detergents are used for washing coloured linen, the optical bleach superimposes itself to the initial colour, creating an “optical filter” which makes the original colour change towards more bluish shades.

This change is permanent; furthermore, the O.B. is very difficult to remove if it has settled even only once on the fabric. In these cases, it will be advisable to wash also the rest of the same linen lot two/three times, so as to make this evident change of colour uniform.

Unfortunately there are no other solutions to this problem.

The only alternative would be to wash coloured linen separately from white linen, with specific detergents for colour which do not contain the optical bleach.

But the use of two different types of detergent can cause mistakes and exchanges.



SHRINKAGES

All cotton items undergo a shrinkage after the first washings.

According to the type of fabric and to the system of washing, the shrinkages are almost equal to 1-2% as far as the width of the fabric is concerned, while they vary from 3 to 8% for the fabric's length.

For this reason we deliver all the new linen in larger sizes than those ordered and invoiced, in order to make up for the greater part of this shrinkage which especially occurs in the warp (length).

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SOFTENERS

Never exceed with softeners; they soften the fibre, but they make it less hydrophile. Therefore it is true that a towel or a bath towel become softer, but also less absorbing and effective for what they are meant to be used.

Let the washed terry dry completely, especially if a softener is used, in order to avoid yellowing of fabric when it remains damp.



LOOSE THREADS

It is recommended that for a correct preservation the terry should never be washed in cold water or be left soaking. It should always be washed in hot water and using a detergent, even during the first washing. During the processes of centrifugation and drying, it is especially advised to control that the holes in the cylinder have smooth borders, as terry is easily prone to trimming and loops. If during use or upkeep a terry loop comes out on the surface, it is good to cut it immediately with some scissors at the height of the other loops. In this way you avoid it getting even longer during following washings, thus improving the aesthetic appearance.



CONDITIONER

Our linen does not contain synthetic conditioners.

If you want to dress the linen after the washing, it is advisable to use natural water-soluble conditioners during the following washing.



LINEN: INCORRECT USE

Unfortunately it often happens that some linen items (napkins, towels, bath towels etc...) may be incorrectly used. It is recommended to refrain from drying blades or knives or furniture, sanitary fittings, pots and pans or cutlery which had been previously wet with their specific cleaning products.

If the first case blades or knives produce cuts that will only show after several washings. In the second case such liquids contain specific cleaning products for cutlery, pots and pans, floors and bathrooms which are highly harmful for the natural linen and cotton fibres. Those parts of the fabric which come into contact with the aforesaid objects are chemically destroyed lose their resistance, causing tearing and holes in those places during the following washings.

It is therefore recommended to avoid this incorrect use of linen, and only use suitable cleaning cloths or dishcloths and preventing linen from coming into contact with harmful substances. This can be avoided, placing the dirty linen in proper containers to carry it to the laundry.



SATIN LINEN: WATER EXTRACTION

In case the laundry uses a tunnel washing machine, please recommend to set the hydraulic water extractor machine with very low speed and pressure in order to squeeze water out of the fabric in a "soft" way.

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