



# Ironing Basics

<https://www.thespruce.com/ironing-101-how-to-iron-clothes-2146166>



- Low-temperature: acetate, acrylic, nylon
- Medium-temperature: polyester, silk, satin, wool
- High-temperature: linen, cotton, denim

Ironing is a skill.

It takes practice.

It takes preparation.

Irons can burn clothing and you!

Be careful.



# Wrinkle Free?

You can sometimes avoid ironing following these simple instructions:

1. Purchase wrinkle resistant clothing.
2. Remove clothes promptly from the dryer and hang them.
3. Use a product like Downy wrinkle Remover.
4. Hang clothes in the bathroom while showering.



# AN IMPORTANT IRONING TIP



Be sure your iron does not have any residue on its flat surface. Keep a small towel with your iron. Before touching the iron to your clothing, run it over the towel's surface several times to be sure it the iron is clean. AND always start with a cool temperature!

Start with a cool setting. Iron clothes inside out. Take your time.

Clothes ironing is the process of moving a hot iron on top of fabric to remove wrinkles. It is worth the time ironing because it helps your clothes keep their shape and look like new longer.

You can optionally spray water, starch, or sizing to help you get your clothes looking crisp.

To properly iron clothes, get started by [washing and drying your clothes correctly](#) to reduce wrinkling. [Never iron clothes](#) that are dirty or [still have stains](#). The iron's heat will likely permanently set the stain into the fabric.

Also, never iron sequins, velvet, and items with screen printing, since those designs can get singed or melt away.

# Prepare Your Ironing Space

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What type of ironing board do you have? Whether it is a full-sized or a tabletop model, be careful about where you place it. Ensure the iron cord is not strung across a walkway where a pet or child can pull the iron down.

If you do not have an ironing board, you can still iron by using a sturdy flat surface like a table or counter and [prepare it correctly](#) using an ironing blanket or thick cotton towel as a liner.

# Iron the garment inside out

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When ironing most fabrics, iron on the wrong side of the garment. This trick will prevent the shine of the material. This shine effect is most noticeable on dark colors, [silk](#), rayon, linen fabric, and acetates.

For [velvet, corduroy, and textured fabrics](#), ironing on the wrong side prevents crushing and even removes the texture. Ironing the right side of seersucker could potentially remove the "puckering" that provides the seersucker's texture.

You should iron fabric lengthwise to prevent stretching.



# Iron while Clothes Are Damp

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It is usually best to iron clothes while they are still slightly damp. The exception is when you need a completely dry iron for fabrics that can stain easily with water.

To add dampness, sprinkle the clothes lightly with water, use your iron's steam or water spray feature (if it has one), or use an [ironing spray like starch or sizing](#) to add moisture.

# Ironing Hems and Collars

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When ironing [shirt collars, cuffs, pockets, or hems](#) that are double the thickness of fabric, iron on the inside first and then on the outside to smooth any final wrinkles.

These areas, especially [curled hem edges](#), will benefit from steam during ironing or pre-wetting before ironing. Do not iron over zippers, buttons, or any decorations.

Hang your ironed clothes immediately after ironing to help them keep a just-pressed look.

Invest in a clothes steamer



Thick cotton towels work as ironing blankets



Steam wrinkles out in the bathroom during a hot shower



## TIPS TO REMOVE WRINKLES WITHOUT AN IRON OR IRONING BOARD

Iron over a hard surface for sharp creases



Do not overstuff drawers & closets



Prevent wrinkles by air drying slightly damp clothes



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