



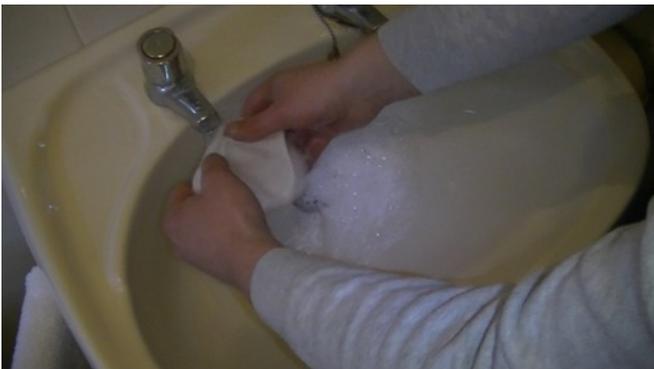
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How do I perform the shrinkage test on my fabric?

The success of a great garment depends a great deal on the fabric that you choose. The primary concern of most sewers is whether the fabric that they have bought is going to shrink after it has been made into a garment. If the fabric does shrink, then this will result in puckered seams. A simple test on a swatch of the same fabric that you have just purchased will determine if the yardage needs to be dry cleaned, washed or merely steamed before it is cut and sewn. In many cases sewers will discover that no pretreatment is necessary.

So to determine the above, we need to conduct a small simple test. First of all you need to cut out 2 square pieces of fabric (from the fabric that you are testing) measuring exactly the same in width and length so lets say 25 centimetres wide by 25 centimetres long. One of the cut out pieces will be washed and then compared with the original piece



Washing the small fabric sample



Comparing the two swatches when dry

Fill up a basin with hot water and add some hand wash powder to it, just like you would prepare your water for when you are going to wash some clothes. Take one of your cut out squares of fabric and place that into the water. Wash the piece of fabric like you would your clothes in a rubbing motion and repeat this about five to six times. When you feel that your piece of fabric has been sufficiently washed rinse with fresh warm water to remove the soap powder. When completed hang your fabric to dry. Do not iron to speed the process up because this can cause a false test. When your piece of fabric has fully dried, take it over to your work station and compare the original piece of fabric with the freshly washed one. If there any threads hanging off as you would get with linen, just leave them without snipping them off. Place the two pieces on top of each other and see if there is a difference in size. If your pieces are identical, then the fabric has not shrunk and you know that your cloth is washable. If there is a difference in size between the two pieces, then your swatch of fabric has shrunk and this will tell you that you will need to dry clean.

This small test was very simple, yet very affective and can be performed on all fabrics that you have a concern about.

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