

Taking Care of Your Clothes and Accessories – Part 2



In our last Stilista blog we talked about caring for wools, leathers, suedes and outerwear (check archives if you missed it – useful stuff!) , so this time we wanted to show you our softer side and discuss fabrics like silk, lace, and also talk undergarments. So ladies (and the occasional male who’s into that – we don’t judge!), listen up!

Silk

The main rule with silk is to never ever machine wash. Can you hand wash even though the label says dry-clean-only? We say yes, but be very judicious. We recommend that if it cost over \$100, or if you love the garment so much you’d never even consider leaving for a trip without it, suck it up and pay the dry-cleaning bill. But if it is something cheap or small (like a little cami or headband), wash in cold water with lingerie bar soap, do not wring out and hang to dry. If it is a woven silk, lay flat to dry. Finally, don’t forget that silk is vulnerable to moths just like wool is, so protect your drawers and closets with cedar blocks. You can even get them in a lavender scent!

Lace

There are many different types of lace, so we will attempt to give you advice that covers all the most common types. Let’s start with the most difficult: antique lace. This lace is found mainly on vintage pieces, and tends to be very delicate and even frail. For

this reason, dry clean with a tried-and-tested dry cleaner! For lace that is thicker (often made out of a cotton thread, you can hand-wash in cold water and hang to dry. Stretch lace gets the same treatment. The toughest of lace (like crocheted materials) can be machine washed in cold, delicate cycles, but only in a mesh lingerie bag so nothing gets caught anywhere. And no machine drying, ever!

Undergarments

If your skivvies are cotton, you have it the easiest – just machine wash and dry! Same goes for polyester, but keep in mind that machine-washing underwire bras often will compromise the wires, so stick to the gentle cycle and use a lingerie laundry bag. All silk, satin, lace and chiffon undergarments get washed by hand and hung to dry. As always, if you have any additional questions, feel free to contact one of Stilista's knowledgeable stylists at **617-78-STYLE** or at info@stilistaboston.com.