# Washing Symbols Guide

Understand washing care labels before every wash.

## 01 How to Read Washing Symbols

Every washing symbol is built from the same few visual building blocks. Once you recognize these six marks, every care label becomes easy to read.



**Wash Tub**
Base symbol for every washing instruction



**Dots**
Set the maximum water temperature



**More Dots**
Mean a hotter recommended temperature



**Underlines**
Show how gentle the wash cycle should be



**Hand**
Item should be washed by hand only



**Cross**
That action is not recommended

## 02 Complete Washing Symbols Chart

The core symbols you'll see on almost every care label.



**Machine Wash**
Safe for a standard machine wash cycle



**Do Not Wash**
Cannot be washed in water — dry clean only



**Hand Wash**
Wash by hand only, cool or lukewarm water



**Wash Separately**
Wash on its own, apart from other garments



**Similar Colors**
Group with garments of a similar shade



**Wash Before Wearing**
Pre-wash once before the first use



**Separate First Wash**
Keep isolated for the first wash, then wash normally

## 03 Water Temperature Symbols

| | TEMPERATURE | BEST FOR |
|---|---|---|
|  | **Cold — 30°C / 86°F** | Dark colors, delicates, everyday loads |
|  | **Cool — 30–40°C** | Bright colors, activewear, blends |
|  | **Warm — 40°C / 104°F** | Regular colored cotton and synthetics |
|  | **Hot — 50°C / 122°F** | Towels, bedding, heavily soiled items |
|  | **Very Hot — 60°C / 140°F** | Whites and sturdy cottons |
|  | **Boiling — 95°C / 203°F** | Heavily soiled whites, where permitted |

## 04 Wash Cycle Symbols

**Normal Cycle**
Standard agitation for everyday cottons

**Permanent Press**
Reduced agitation to prevent wrinkling

**Gentle Cycle**
Slow, minimal agitation for softer fabrics

**Delicate Cycle**
Lowest agitation for fine or fragile items

**Extra Gentle**
Cold water plus the slowest possible cycle

**Wool Cycle**
Short, low-motion cycle for wool blends

**Quick Wash**
Shortened cycle for lightly soiled loads

**Heavy Duty**
Longer, stronger cycle for tough fabrics

**Eco Wash**
Lower-temperature cycle that saves energy

## 05 Spin & Agitation Symbols

**Normal Spin**
Full spin speed to remove maximum water

**Reduced Spin**
Slower spin for delicate or blended fabrics

**No Spin**
Drains without spinning — lift out and drip-dry

**Do Not Wring**
Never twist — press water out gently instead

## 06 Special Washing Instructions

**Wash Inside Out**
Protects prints, embroidery, and outer color

**Close Zippers First**
Stops zippers from snagging other fabrics

**Fasten Buttons First**
Keeps buttonholes and trims from stretching

**Use a Laundry Bag**
Shields delicates, lace, and small items

**Rinse Only**
Water rinse with no detergent or agitation

**Remove Promptly**
Take items out right away to avoid mildew

## 07 Fabric Quick Guide

**Cotton**
Warm or hot water, normal cycle — shrinks most on the first wash.

**Polyester**
Cool to warm water, low heat — resists wrinkling well.

**Wool**
Cold water, wool or hand-wash cycle — never wring.

**Silk**
Cold water, hand wash or delicate cycle, in a laundry bag.

**Linen**
Cool water, gentle cycle — softens with each wash.

**Rayon / Viscose**
Cold water, hand wash — weak when wet, handle gently.

**Nylon**
Cool water, gentle cycle — avoid high heat to prevent melting.

**Acrylic**
Cool water, gentle cycle — low heat only, pills easily.

**Denim**
Cold water, inside out — preserves color, reduces fading.

**Activewear**
Cold water, gentle cycle — skip softener on technical fibers.

### Common Washing Mistakes

- Ignoring the Do Not Wash symbol on delicate or structured items.
- Using hot water on wool, which causes permanent shrinking.
- Washing silk on a normal cycle instead of hand wash or delicate.
- Overloading the washer, which reduces cleaning and increases wear.
- Mixing heavily soiled clothes with delicates in the same load.
- Skipping mesh laundry bags for lace, lingerie, and small items.

## 08 Before You Press Start

- [ ] **Read the care label**
- [ ] **Sort by fabric**
- [ ] **Zip zippers**
- [ ] **Measure detergent**
- [ ] **Check water temperature**
- [ ] **Sort by color**
- [ ] **Empty pockets**
- [ ] **Fasten buttons**
- [ ] **Select correct cycle**

**Always read every care label before washing.** Different fabrics require different temperatures, wash cycles, and handling methods. Following the care label helps reduce shrinking, fading, stretching, and fabric damage.

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