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★ MAY 25 1931 ★

Friday, June 5, 1931.  
U. S. Department of Agriculture

62 HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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3 Hh  
Subject: "Details for Little Ways to Save Your Clothes." Information approved by the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

--ooOoo--

The best-dressed woman I know always declares that it is the details that count in dressing well on a small income. If clothes are to last and keep their smart appearance, they must be given proper care in many little ways. Carelessness will keep any wardrobe in a dowdy state, no matter how much the clothes have cost. The Parisian frock with a grease spot in front, the five-dollar hose with a run up the back, the pleated skirt with pleats out in spots and wrinkles in--Oh, well, you know how a woman can look in the most expensive clothes if she treats them badly. Yet, on the other hand, I know a girl who wore all last summer a two-ninety-eight dress and a becoming little hat that she had made herself. And every time she appeared in that outfit, she looked nice enough to be presented at Court.

From this friend who knows the secret of dressing well at small expense-- and does it-- I have collected a few suggestions on care of clothing. Of course, she always keeps her dresses hanging on hangers when not in use. That saves pressing and keeps them in shape. And she removes any spots promptly.

Now let me tell you what she has to say about keeping pleats in. She is a business woman who sits all day at a desk. And sitting on pleats, you know, is hard on them. So she wears a rubber apron under her skirt at the back, to help to keep in the folds. Hanging the dress straight on a hanger as soon as it is removed keeps the pleats hanging straight.

As soon as the creases begin to grow indefinite it is a good idea to press them. Pin the pleats at the top of the skirt to the ironing board, lay them straight, and pin them again at the hem. Then press them firmly with a moderately hot iron on the wrong side. A little practice makes even an amateur quite skilled. Fine French pleats in very thin summer silk, however, can hardly be successfully pressed at home. Cleaning and pressing establishments are equipped with devices for this work and should be depended on to re-set fine pleats.

To pack a pleated dress when travelling, cut an oblong piece of cardboard the length of the skirt and as wide as the top. Cover it with cloth. Then lay it inside the skirt and pin the pleats down to it before packing in the suitcase. Layers of wrapping paper between each layer of fabric is a help, too.



Now to consider these runs in silk stockings that cause such frequent distress and may spoil the neatest and smartest appearance. A run often starts from a minute hole, but it may spell ruin for an otherwise perfect pair of hose.

Care in putting on hose makes them last longer. Turn all but the foot of the stocking wrong side out, slip on the foot, and then roll the rest of the stocking over the heel to prevent unnecessary strain on the fibres. Then draw it up snug, but not too tight. If the foot is thrust in and the stocking pulled on by tugging at the top, threads are likely to break and a run may start.

Holes and runs are often caused by catching the silk on finger rings, shoe buckles, or rough corners on furniture. Slippers or pumps which rub up and down at the back are also hard on hose. To make slippers fit snugly, heel-pads may be purchased from shoe stores. A good prevention is to have the shoe store stitch in a suede lining at the time shoes are purchased.

To wear too small a size of stockings, or to fasten hose supporters too tight, or below the double top are sure ways of shortening the life of stockings. The strain on them is too great, especially when the knee bends.

Proper washing is also important. Use lukewarm suds of pure mild soap, and rinse thoroughly in water of the same temperature. Strong soap, hot water or rubbing the soap directly on the stocking should be avoided because they are likely to damage the delicate silk or cause those bits of silk fuzzy that collect on hose and spoil the appearance. And, of course, silk stockings are never ironed.

So much for stockings. You can save a good many pennies by treating them gently and making them last.

Have you ever given a thought to the rubber articles in your wardrobe? Raincoats, overshoes, bathing caps, elastic goods, dress shields, rubber gloves and aprons?

Under certain conditions, rubber fabrics deteriorate rapidly. Intense heat makes rubber soft and gummy. That is why raincoats and overshoes should never be dried in a hot place. They wear out quickly enough without subjecting them to heat. Rubber aprons which come in contact with the hot stove suffer the same fate.

Wash rubber materials of all kinds in lukewarm water and dry them slowly at room temperature. To clean rubberized raincoats, or elastic girdles or dress shields, lay the fabric flat and scrub both sides with a soft brush, cool water and soap. Rubber fabrics should never be ironed. If they need to be dried quickly, use talcum powder and brush it off when dry.

Grease, as well as such cleaning materials as alcohol, chloroform, gasoline, turpentine, and benzine all damage rubber and should never be used. Mild soap is the safest material to use in cleaning any rubber fabric. It should, of course, be rinsed off thoroughly and not allowed to dry on the





material.

Most rubber materials tear easily, so hang them on hanger rather than hooks, and use a soft brush when you wash them.

Let's forget our clothes for a few minutes now, and turn our attention to dinner for Sunday. Another chicken dinner this week. Broiled chicken, this time. I'll give you the menu.

Broiled Chicken; French Fried or Lattice Potatoes; Creamed Asparagus; Pickled Peaches; Spring Salad; and, for dessert, Fresh Strawberry Ice Cream with Angel Cake.

Pickled peaches served with the chicken add that dash of sweet spiciness that is just the thing to go with the chicken.

Spring salad is made of fresh, raw vegetables served on lettuce with French dressing. Plenty of color and variety in flavor. This time let's use sliced cucumber, tomatoes and onions on lettuce.

Now here is the recipe for French fried or lattice potatoes. Peel the potatoes and, if you have a lattice cutter you can slice the potatoes in this clever way. It is an especially good method of serving potatoes for variety. Or simply cut the potatoes in the conventional strips for frying. Slice them lengthwise into strips about one-half inch thick, rinse them in cold water, and soak them for 2 or 3 hours to remove as much starch as possible. Then remove the strips from the water and pat them dry with a clean dry cloth. By "dry" I mean with the surface water removed. Now heat a kettle of deep fat hot enough to brown a small piece of bread in 60 seconds -- about 375 degrees F. Fry about a cupful of potatoes at a time. Remove them from the fat when golden brown and drain them on absorbent paper. Sprinkle with salt and serve at once while hot and crisp.

On Monday: "A Meal for a Man."

