

How you can help to get the best from your drycleaner

- > Have your garments cleaned regularly.
- > Bring the garment in for professional care as soon as possible after staining occurs.
- > Discuss any stains with your drycleaner and be especially sure to point out light coloured spills.
- > Avoid garment contact with solutions containing alcohol, such as perfume, as this can cause colour loss.
- > Protect your garments, especially silk, from excessive perspiration as this weakens silk fibres.
- > Allow deodorants and anti perspirants to dry before you dress.
- > Protect your garments from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.
- > Do not iron stained clothes, as heat can set stains.

Help Your Cleaner To Help You...

For information on a Member Cleaner in your area contact

Textile Services Association
3 Queen Square
Bloomsbury
London WC1N 3AR

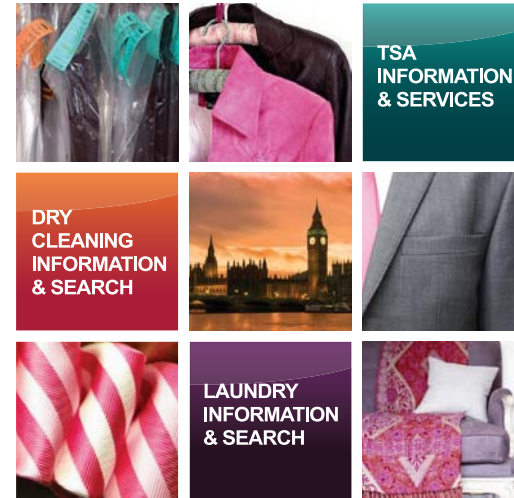
T 020 7843 9490

F 020 7843 9491

E tsa@tsa-uk.org

www.tsa-uk.org

FACTS ABOUT DRYCLEANING



What is Drycleaning

All clothes become soiled in use and sooner or later they will require cleaning to maintain their appearance, as well as for hygienic reasons. Everyone will be familiar with washing with water and soap powders but drycleaning remains a mystery.

Drycleaning is the use of organic solvents to remove soil and stains from fabrics. It is called drycleaning because the process contains little or no water. When washed in water, natural fibres such as wool and silk can shrink, distort and even lose colour. Because the drycleaning process does not 'wet' the fibres, these problems are unlikely to occur. Synthetic fibres such as polyesters also respond well to drycleaning.

Drycleaning solvents actually dissolve and remove grease and oil stains. Water by itself cannot do this.

Other Stains require specialised treatment to remove them, known as spotting. Whilst many can be removed quickly with steam, others require a high level of professional skill and expertise from the cleaner.

Drycleaning does not cause creasing or distortion, neither does it remove unwanted creases or restore the loss of shape caused by wear. The skilled drycleaner, by steam pressing, will be able to re-shape the garment, replace the required creases and eliminate unwanted wrinkles.

The term 'drycleaning' is generally understood to cover the whole process of cleaning in solvent, spotting and pressing, carried out in sequence.

Competent Drycleaning covers more than just Cleaning

It is many different operations, all performed by skilled people and aimed at giving your garments as near new appearance as is possible.

The procedures include:

- > Checking the garment for a care label which will give cleaning instructions and fibre content.
- > Classifying the garment according to fabric type, colour and degree of soiling.
- > Selecting and carrying out the correct cleaning process.
- > Removing marks and stains.
- > Replacing water repellency and retexturing agents when necessary.
- > Pressing the garment with steam to restore its original shape and appearance.

Many professional cleaners offer additional services such as cleaning leathers, curtains, some offer a shirt service and many offer a repairs and alteration service.

Even the most Competent Cleaner is not able to:

- > **Remove years of ingrained dirt and grime,** frequent cleaning will eliminate this problem.
- > **Remove all stains,** The nature and age of the stain, plus the colour and construction of the fabric, sometimes makes stain removal impossible.
- > **Recover worn or torn areas,** In some cases, small holes can be rewoven, but this is the owners responsibility.
- > **Prevent holes,** Caused by insects or acid spillage. Such holes may not appear before drycleaning, but they result from previous weakening of the fibres. Once again, small holes may be re-woven.
- > **Remove shine,** caused by excessive heat and pressure used in home ironing.
- > **Correct the effect of poor home stain removal,** such as excessive rubbing.

Frequently asked Questions

- Q** Is drycleaning good for clothes ?
 - A** Yes. It removes grit, dust and grease that can damage the fabric if left in it too long. Drycleaning not only prolongs the life of a garment, but keeps it looking smart for as long as possible.
 - Q** Should I inform the cleaner what has caused the stain?
 - A** Yes. The quicker stained garments are taken to the cleaner the better. Some stains affect fabrics permanently if they are left unattended too long.
 - Q** Should I have all matching pieces cleaned together at the same time ?
 - A** Yes. If all pieces are cleaned together, any colour loss is likely to be uniform and variations will be minimal. **However beware!** There are exceptions, some two pieces are made as separates and different cleaning instructions may be found on each piece. If this is the case, advise your cleaner.
 - Q** Does drycleaning shrink clothes ?
 - A** No. Not if the drycleaning process has been carried out correctly in accordance with the care label.
 - Q** Are Suedes and Leathers cleaned in the same way as fabric garments ?
 - A** No. Highly specialised procedures are used on leather garments. Most will need to be re-oiled and/or re-dyed to restore colour and texture.
 - Q** Will my freshly drycleaned garment have an odour ?
 - A** No. A professional cleaner is skilled in keeping his solvent clean, and following proper drycleaning procedures your garments are returned free of all smells.
 - Q** Can I store my clean garments in the plastic wrapping they are returned in ?
 - A** The wrapping provided by the cleaner is to protect the garment until you get it home. It is always best to store garments uncovered.
-