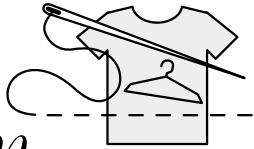


BASIC *Apparel Management*



Storage Solutions

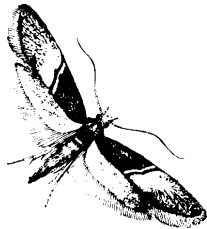
Storage in the home is an important component in the management of apparel. It is however, often overlooked until you are faced with a crisis.

Handouts for the Storage Lesson are:

- Beetles, Moths, and Silverfish, OH MY!
- Controlling Apparel Storage

The most common fabric pest is the clothes moth, but insects can damage apparel. The following descriptions explain the behavioral characteristics, their color, and reproduction capabilities.

Clothes Moths

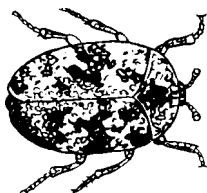


Two species: Webbing Clothes Moth and the Casement Clothes Moth look alike. Adult moths are yellowish or buff, with a wing span of about a half inch. Fully grown larvae are white and have tiny brownish-black heads, and are about a half inch long.

Female moths lay soft white eggs in concealed places such as, clothing, household furniture, and cracks in the floor – 100 to 300 eggs are laid that hatch in four to eight days in the summer months. Hatching takes longer in cool weather. Moths produce four generations per year.

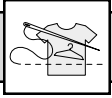
As soon as eggs hatch, they begin feeding on protein fibers like; wool, mohair, hair, bristles, fur, feathers, and down. They enjoy protein fibers, but will feed on anything – even curtains or mattresses. Moths are usually found on their food source (stains on garments). They can live behind baseboards, moldings, cracks in the floor or corners, or in air ducts. Closets, shelves, and dresser drawers are also feeding grounds. Adult moths prefer darkness and do not flit around light sources. When disturbed, they run or fly to hide themselves.

Carpet Beetles



Four species: Black Carpet beetle, Carpet beetle, Furniture Carpet beetle, and the Varied Carpet beetle.

Black Carpet beetles have solid black bodies, brownish legs, and are 3/36" to 1/8" long. The larvae are yellowish, golden, or dark brown and the bodies are tapered from the head to the posterior.



The other three species have molted colorings of white, brown, yellow, or black, are 1/8" long. The larvae are elongated and oval; with brownish or black bristles, and grow to 1/4" long.

Female Carpet beetles lay eggs similar to those laid by clothes moths. Laying only 100 eggs that hatch in eight to 15 days in summer, longer in winter. Only one generation is produced per year.

Adult Carpet beetles fly readily, are attracted to sunlight, and may be found on window sills.

Both moths and beetles may be carried into the home on clothing, furniture, under canned food labels, or other materials.

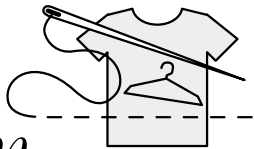
Other pests such as silverfish, crickets, beetles, and roaches eat fabrics because of the food source provided by food-based stains or protein fibers.

Pest Damage Can Be Avoided By:

- cleaning storage areas
- vacuuming baseboards, cracks and flooring each season
- using pesticides responsibly (follow label directions)

Before administering the lesson, ask participants to fill out the self-evaluation sheet. Following the lesson, ask them to fill out *My Plan for Improving My Skills*.

BASIC *Apparel Management*



Handout A **Storage Solutions**

Beetles, Moths, and Silverfish, OH MY!

Prevention, detection and elimination! No we are not talking about the latest Terminator movie, but about a common problem every household encounters, BUGS! In particular, bugs that like to eat clothing.

Common insect pests are the clothes moth, carpet beetle, silverfish, cockroach, even crickets. These insects don't really want to eat the fabric, they are eating where "food" has been left from spills, stains, perspiration, or starched fabrics. The fabric is damaged because the food is attached to it. The damage is done as the insects cut or eat away at the food source, leaving small holes in the clothing. These holes may not be noticeable until clothes are washed, making the damage evident.

How to Avoid a Pest-y Situation

So how do you avoid damage to your clothing? Make sure that everything you put away has been washed or dry cleaned and any stains removed.

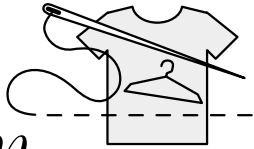
What do you do if you find the pests listed above in your home? Wherever the location of the infestation, begin emptying that area and launder all apparel items. It is necessary to clean every crack and corner of the area. Use a vacuum cleaner to clean baseboards, ceilings, and shelving. Discard the vacuum cleaner bag to prevent re-infestation. Spray the area with an appropriate insecticide available at the local market. Follow instructions carefully. Washing shelves with detergent, bleach, ammonia, or disinfectants will not have any effect on insect pests. Closely monitor other areas of the home for evidence of pests.

Are mothballs a good way to deter moths? They are an effective but smelly method and require an airtight environment. Most closets and cedar chests cannot provide airtight storage space. Moth balls are toxic, and should never be handled by or located within the reach of children and pets. Mothballs should never touch the fabrics directly, but suspended above in a mesh bag. The scent from moth balls will not kill insects, but they do find it offensive and usually stay away. Unfortunately the scent is offensive to us as well, and is very difficult, if not impossible to remove the smell from clothing.

What is the best way to store apparel in the home and away from pests? Make sure the apparel is clean, the closet or storage area is clean and well-ventilated, and checked frequently pests.

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For additional information on household pests, please see K-State Research and Extension publication, MF-1096, Household Insect Control



Controlling Apparel Storage

Closet Bulge Blues

If bulging at the seams describes your current closet situation, then this information is for you. Apparel is made from fabric that needs special care and attention to keep it looking its best.

Before stress becomes distress, let's analyze the care process from a different point of view. The conditions our apparel are subjected to begins in the closet. Left to hang on thin, pointy wires, we force them to endure more stress and strain when worn. Passing through the laundering process they are crammed, dunked, agitated, spun, immersed, spun again and then heated and tossed before hopefully arriving back to the closet, again strung by thin pointy wires. Surviving in cramped quarters, our clothes are jammed together. Gravity then places clothing under more stress, pulling and tugging on the hanger. Subjected to this grueling process, it is a wonder our apparel lasts as long as it does.

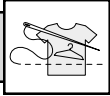
Rave Reviews

As the seasons change so does the selection of daily apparel. Even if you're crazy about the wool sweater – you just might fry during the long hot summer. And you may not need those shorts in January, so what's a person to do?

Begin by sorting out those seasonal items to store away, then sort again. Look for any items that have stains, need mending or don't fit anymore, and those that must be replaced. Then try to rewash the stained apparel, set a realistic time schedule for completing the mending (and try to meet that deadline), sell or give away those items that don't fit, and update your wardrobe plan with the replacement items ready the next time you shop.

Out-of Sight, Out-of-mind?

Apparel storage falls within three categories: short term (day to day), seasonal, and long term. Each with differing needs to provide a safe environment for apparel. How you go about storing the seasonal wardrobe is based on the amount of space you have available. Closet storage is primarily designed for hanging items with some shelves, and drawer space for current season needs. If floor space is available, adding rolling racks, boxes or cartons may be a solution for crowded closets and seasonal storage.



Hanging Storage	Pros	Cons
Wire hangers	easily available, affordable, lightweight	rust, snags, no support for fabrics, distort shoulders on knitted garments, tangle easily
Plastic tubular hangers	some support for lightweight garments, affordable	easily break, may still distort shoulders on knitted shirts
Padded, shaped, and Suit hangers	good support for weight of most garments, sheer fabrics, dresses, suits, tailored garments	more expensive
Skirt, pant or clip style hangers	easy to use, allow pants to hang from hem keeping crease	metal clips may rust, clips mar fabric surface, skirts develop

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly on Storage

Short-term storage is for apparel used on a daily basis. To extend the wear of these garments, follow these tips:

- Let clothing air overnight before returning to the closet, drawer, or laundry basket. Airing permits moisture to evaporate and wear wrinkles to relax. Never store damp clothing.
- Do not store clothing near a source of heat – even lightbulbs – or in sunlight.
- Rotate wearing favorite items, especially shoes. Shoes trap moisture inside – airing helps avoid stinky feet.
- Don't store jewelry in pockets or on jacket lapels. Secure or close fasteners on tops, jackets, and bottoms.
- Check for spots and stains. Pretreat these items immediately.
- Allow room between garments that hang. Ideally garments should hang without being squashed by other garments. The spacing helps when removing the hanger from the rod, keeps closures from snagging other garments prevents wrinkles – freeing you from the iron.
- Closets and drawers should be thoroughly cleaned once a year. Refer to *Beetles, Moths and Silverfish OH MY!*



Flat Storage

Usually used for items that are delicate or knit. The amount of flat storage is usually limited. Consider adding containers to store sweaters and other seasonal items under the bed, or use trunks or suitcases that might suit the decor of the room. Suggestions for flat storage are:

- Fold garments along construction lines or wearing lines (waist, knees, elbows). Don't fold it the same way each time. Ex: when folding a sweater, fold arms to front side. Next time fold them to the back.
- Roll garments. Rolling uses less space and you can store more items with less wrinkles.
- Protect apparel from wood-lined drawers and shelves – the wood will stain fabric.
- Sachets and herbs provide a nice smell, but they do not prevent pest damage.

Seasonal Storage

After doing seasonal sorting and preparations, consider these tips to insure good care:

- Garments with starch, sizing, or fabric softeners will attract pests. Any items washed with chlorine bleach should be rewashed to insure all bleach has been removed.
- Avoid basement and attics. These areas are prone to moisture damage and extreme heat fluctuations, both conditions are potentially damaging to textiles.
- Clean storage area prior to storage. Vacuum baseboards, corners, and crevices.
- Never store damp or wet clothing.
- Avoid plastic bags and containers.
- Don't overpack or stuff apparel into containers.
- Wool, wool blends and fur apparel are susceptible to pest damage. Be sure these items are cleaned before storing.

Long-Term Storage

These items may be special garments worn at certain occasions, or have sentimental value. These items need great care, refer to *Life's Tapestries: Securing the Past for the Future Lesson Series*.

Life's Tapestries: Securing the Past for the Future

To obtain a copy of this lesson series, write to: Marla Day, Extension Associate, Textiles, 236B Justin Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506

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