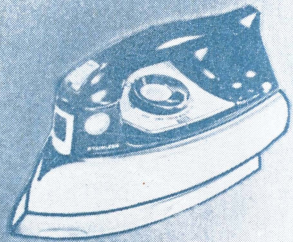


the
STEAM IRON



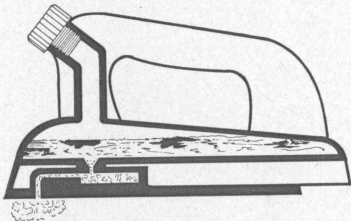
THE STEAM IRON

ELSIE P. SHORT, EULA J. NEWMAN, WANDA B. MEYER
Extension Home Management Specialists
Texas A&M University

THE STEAM IRON continues to grow in popularity and has become standard equipment in most homes. For economy, the steam iron should not replace the conventional iron for starched and dampened ironing.

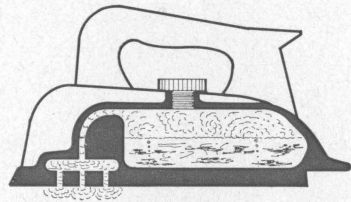
TYPES OF STEAM IRONS

Steam irons are available in drip and boiler types. Because of different construction, they have certain characteristics of performance and require slightly different care.



Drip

- Cool water drips from the reservoir through a tiny valve opening into a chamber in the soleplate where it turns into steam a drop at a time.
- As soon as the soleplate heats to "steam" setting—2 or 3 minutes—the iron is ready to use.
- The fill opening remains open.



Boiler

- Water in the reservoir heats to the boiling point and the steam is forced out through openings in the soleplate.
- After 5 to 10 minutes, steaming begins.
- The fill opening must be closed before steam is formed.

- With the flip of a button, the iron converts easily from steam to dry ironing.
- After filling, leave at "dry" setting until the iron heats, to prevent water dripping through.
- This type steams only when iron is down; it stops when iron is upright.
- It may be filled when iron is hot or cold. Overfilling or tilting point down can cause water spattering.
- This type must be emptied before it can convert to dry iron.
- Some models have different steam settings which provide varying amounts for different fabrics.
- Steaming continues as long as there is water and the iron is on. Steam is less vigorous when placed on its heel rest.
- Be cautious when emptying or filling the iron while it is hot.

WHEN YOU BUY

To determine your personal requirements for a steam iron, check these features:

Comfort - Weight, shape of handle, room for hand and location of cord.

Balance - Steady when the iron is on its heel rest.

Water opening - Convenient size and location.

Temperature settings - Easy to see and have a wide range, especially a low setting for synthetic fabrics.

Soleplates - Stainless steel is easier to keep but more expensive than aluminum.

Reservoirs - Stainless steel or brass corrode less than aluminum.

Special features - "Spray sprinkle" for dampening, water level indicator, extra long cord, left or right hand design.

Service and parts - Should be available.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR IRON

Read and follow manufacturer's instructions.

For best results use only distilled or demineralized water. Once the demineralizers have changed color, they must be replaced.

Know capacity and measure correct amount of water. For safety, disconnect iron from electric outlet while filling. Protect soleplate from scratches—avoid ironing over pins or snaps.

When ironing is completed, turn steam switch to "dry" to prevent corroding of the valve and disconnect cord.

Drain iron while it is still hot.

HOW TO CLEAN

Clean the soleplate while the iron is cool. Use mildest method that will do the job—first a damp cloth; detergent; scouring powder (whiting or soda) or soap-filled steel wool. Wipe clean. Rub heated iron over waxed paper, then on dry cloth.

If the vents of the steam chamber become clogged, return the iron to the manufacturer for cleaning, or follow the instructions given by the manufacturer.

HOW TO STORE

When the iron is cooled—wrap cord loosely around the iron to prevent breaking the wire and causing a short circuit.

Store in an upright position.