

# Home care of WOOLEN BLANKETS



THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS

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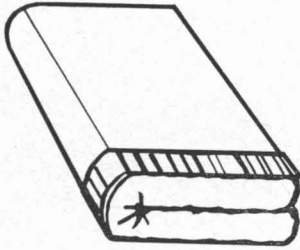
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# Home Care Of Woolen Blankets

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Woolen blankets, electric or non-electric, represent a large investment for many families. Properly cared for, they will remain light, fluffy, retain their "new look" and give years of good service.

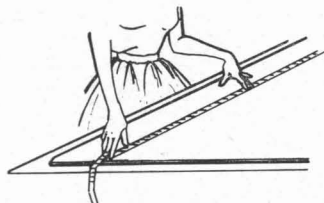


- **Use correct water temperature.** Water for both washing and rinsing should be the same temperature—100 degrees F.

## HOW TO LAUNDER

Woolen blankets can be washed successfully in an automatic or conventional washer, using the soak, agitation or hand methods. Regardless of the method, observe these general rules:

- **Wash one at a time.** Plan to wash only one full-sized blanket at a time.



- **Measure the blanket before laundering.** If this is done, you can block the blanket back to its original size.



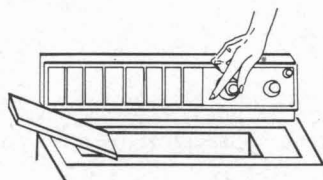
- **Select proper cleaning agent.** Soap or synthetic detergents may be used. If your water is hard, soften it, if you use soap. If you plan to use the agitation or hand method, soap is a better cleaning agent. Soap cushions agitation and handling. You may use your favorite laundry detergent with the soak method. The cushion of soap suds is not needed, since agitation and handling is kept to a minimum.



● **Pretreat.** Rub heavily soiled spots or streaked bindings with a soft brush or cellulose sponge and warm water in which soap or detergent has been added. Use the same soap or detergent for washing the blanket.

● **Dissolve laundry aids.** Dissolve water softener and soap or detergent in wash water before placing the blanket in the water.

Follow the general rules; choose a method described as follows and continue.



### Soak Method

To use an automatic washer you must be able to control the wash and spin periods. A cylinder-type washer is not suitable for washing woolen blankets.

● **Soak.** Immerse the blanket and allow it to soak 15 to 20 minutes. Turn it over one time by hand. Do not allow washer to operate. Advance dial to "spin"—spin for 2 minutes.



● **Rinse.** Give the blanket two 5-minute soaking rinses. Do not agitate. Turn blanket by hand. Spin for 2 minutes following each rinse.

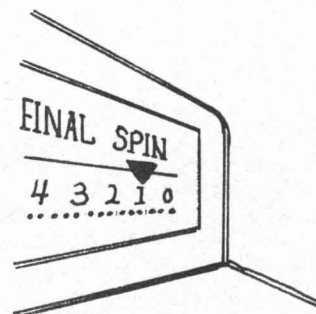
The soak method is preferred, since it leaves the blanket in softer, fluffier condition. If your blankets are exceptionally soiled, you may want to try the agitation method.

### Agitation Method

To use an automatic washer you must be able to control the wash and spin periods. A cylinder-type washer is not suitable for washing woolen blankets.

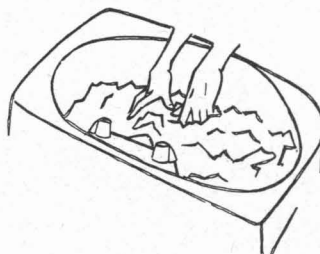
● **Soak.** Immerse the blanket and allow it to soak 5 minutes.

● **Wash.** Start the washer; allow it to agitate 2 minutes. Advance the dial to spin; spin for 2 minutes.



● **Rinse.** Give the blanket two 1-minute soaking rinses. Spin for 1 minute following each rinse.

*Caution:* Never agitate a blanket more than 2 minutes. If you do, shrinkage will be excessive and you will not be able to block the blanket to its original size.



### Hand Method

● **Soak.** Immerse the blanket and allow it to soak 5 minutes.

● **Wash.** Squeeze suds through the blanket. Avoid twisting or wringing.

- **Rinse.** Rinse the blanket two times. Squeeze the water out gently following each rinse.

If you have a conventional washer, use the soak or agitation method for washing, but squeeze the water out gently by hand. *Never put a woolen blanket, electric or nonelectric, through a wringer.*

## DRYING THE BLANKET

### Dryer

- *Preheat* dryer for 5 minutes with five or six large bath towels (use high heat setting if your dryer offers a choice). This shortens drying time and avoids extra tumbling which results in excessive shrinkage.

- *Mix* hot towels into blanket, place it in the dryer and dry 15 to 18 minutes at high heat.

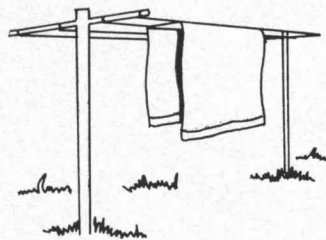
- *Remove* the blanket from the dryer while still damp. Complete drying in the dryer causes excessive shrinkage. Blanket should show little or no shrinkage.

- *Stretch and pull* an unwired blanket vigorously while still damp. (This is done easier by two persons.) Electric blankets should *never* be stretched.

- *Raise the nap* with a stiff brush, brushing first lengthwise, then crosswise.

- *Hang* over rack or across line to complete drying, if blanket feels damp after brushing.

- *Steam press* or sponge and press the bindings with a cool iron (rayon setting).



### Line Drying

- *Hang* the blanket in the shade.

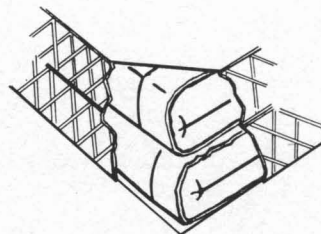
- *Cover* the line with a folded sheet to reduce line mark on the blanket.

- *Place* the blanket lengthwise across the line.

- *Stretch* blanket by pulling downward, hems together.

- *Turn the blanket over* when partially dry.

- *Remove the blanket from the line*, while still damp; brush and press binding as suggested for dryer drying. Your blanket will remain the same size, *if you follow instructions!*



## STORING THE BLANKET

Be sure that blankets are clean before storing. Soiled blankets may attract insects and spots and stains often become permanent. Store blanket in an air-tight box or plastic bag. Do not place moth-proofing chemicals in an electric blanket stored in a box or bag, since the chemicals may damage the insulated wiring.

## HOW TO CARE FOR ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Fold sheets back several inches over the top blanket edge to protect the blanket from wear and soil.

- Never leave an electric blanket turned on when it is not in use.

- Do not tuck wired areas between mattress and footboard, or press against a wall.

- Avoid piercing the blanket with pins or other sharp objects that might damage electrical insulation.

- Air blankets often to keep them light and fresh.

- Wash electric blankets. Dry-cleaning fluids damage insulation material around wiring.