

# SOP: Drying Methods and Fabric-Specific Handling

This SOP details **drying methods and fabric-specific handling** techniques, covering various drying processes such as air drying, tumble drying, and flat drying, tailored to different fabric types. It emphasizes the importance of selecting appropriate drying temperatures, times, and handling procedures to maintain fabric integrity, prevent shrinkage, color fading, and damage. The guidelines assist in optimizing drying efficiency while preserving the quality and longevity of diverse textiles.

## 1. Purpose

To provide standardized procedures for drying and handling fabrics to maintain quality, prevent damage, and maximize textile lifespan.

## 2. Scope

This SOP applies to all staff involved in laundry processes for **domestic, institutional, or industrial settings** handling various fabric types.

## 3. Responsibilities

- Ensure adherence to recommended drying methods per fabric type.
- Monitor drying equipment and conditions.
- Implement correct handling practices to avoid damage.

## 4. Drying Methods Overview

Method	Description	Ideal For	Key Considerations
Air Drying	Hanging or laying fabric in a ventilated environment	Wool, silk, delicate synthetics, knits	Avoid direct sunlight for colored or delicate items; ensure adequate airflow.
Tumble Drying	Machine drying using controlled heat and motion	Cotton, polyester blends, linens, towels	Follow specified temperature settings; remove promptly to minimize wrinkles and shrinkage.
Flat Drying	Laying garment flat on a clean, absorbent surface	Woolens, loosely knit garments, delicate fabrics	Reshape while damp; use towels or mesh racks to support shape.

## 5. Fabric-Specific Guidelines

Fabric Type	Recommended Drying Method	Temperature Setting	Additional Handling Instructions
Cotton	Tumble Dry	Medium	Remove while slightly damp to prevent wrinkles; reshape if necessary.
Linen	Air Dry or Tumble Dry	Low to Medium	Avoid overdrying; iron while damp if needed.
Wool	Flat Dry	N/A (No heat)	Never hang; reshape garment and dry on a towel or mesh rack.
Silk	Air Dry	N/A (No heat)	Dry in shade; avoid wringing or twisting; lay flat if possible.
Synthetics (Polyester, Nylon)	Tumble Dry or Air Dry	Low	Remove promptly to prevent static and wrinkles.
Knitwear	Flat Dry	N/A	Reshape while damp; avoid hanging to prevent stretching.
Delicate (Lace, Chiffon)	Air Dry/Flat Dry	N/A	Use a towel to absorb excess moisture; lay flat and avoid direct sun.

## 6. General Procedure

1. **Check Garment Labels:** Always review manufacturer care labels for specific drying instructions.
2. **Sort By Fabric Type:** Group fabrics based on drying compatibility.
3. **Select Appropriate Method:** Refer to fabric guidelines above.
4. **Adjust Equipment Settings:** Set drying temperature and time according to recommendation.
5. **Monitor and Handle Promptly:** Remove items immediately after drying to minimize wrinkles and potential damage.
6. **Proper Storage Post-Drying:** Store only completely dried, cool garments to prevent mildew and creasing.

## 7. Safety and Quality Tips

- Avoid overloading dryers; overloading can cause uneven drying and damage.
- Clean lint filter after every use to ensure airflow and prevent fire hazard.
- Do not mix heavily soiled items with delicates during drying.
- Regularly maintain and inspect drying equipment for optimal performance.

## 8. Documentation

Record batch details, fabric types, drying methods used, drying duration, and any observed damages or anomalies for quality control.

## 9. Revision and Review Schedule

This SOP will be reviewed annually or as updates in textile care standards arise.