

Want to save winter clothes? Here's hints

Packing winter clothes away carefully is the best way to keep them safe from moths and other insects during the summer, says Tod Hamilton, Multnomah County Extension agent.

Two important rules for storing winter clothing are to clean garments before putting them away and to store garments allowing room for air to circulate around them, she says.

Follow the care label and either wash or dryclean wool garments to prevent damage by moths, recommends Ardis W. Koester, Oregon State Extension textiles and clothing specialist.

Moths are especially attracted to food spots and body oils in garments. Many wool garments are permanently moth-proofed, but this information is seldom included on care labels or fiber labels.

"If you have evidence of moths in your home, you may want to treat wool garments with a pressurized spray of methoxychlor, ronnel or lindane," says Koester.

Woolen garments can be safely stored in an airtight garment storage bag with a half pound PDB (paradichlorobenzene) or one pound naphthalene crystals per 40 cubic feet of storage space.

Place the moth treatment at the top of the storage bag in a perforated container or fabric pouch. Be careful to keep moth crystals from coming into contact with anything plastic.

"The moth crystal vapors should filter through the garment storage bag but if the chemicals come in contact with plastic the plastic will soften creating a sticky mess," Koester warns. "Check the package directions for specific guidelines for the moth treatment you are using."

Manufactured fiber fabrics such as acrylic, nylon, polyester, and rayon are naturally moth-proof and don't require moth treatments as long as they are clean.

"Store sweaters and loosely constructed knitwear folded to lay as flat as possible," says Koester. Tightly constructed

durable knits may be stored on padded hangers to prevent stretch marks at the shoulders.

Garments made of or trimmed with leather and suede should be stored in fabric garment bags which are porous and will allow the leather to "breathe." They should be placed in a cool, dry and well-ventilated area to prevent mildew caused by dampness.

If possible genuine furs should be cleaned and put into controlled temperature and humidity storage. Most professional furriers have this type of storage facility.

"If commercial storage is not used, the garment should at least be cleaned, then protected from dust with a fabric garment bag and stored in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place," says Koester.



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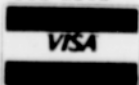
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