

Making Clothes Last

Practical skills

The habits that extend the life of clothing, ranked by effect.

Most wear happens in the machine, not while wearing.

Largest effect

Wash less often — air instead

Wash at 30°C

Air dry; tumble drying is the harshest treatment

Turn garments inside out

Also

Do not overload the machine

Zip zips, fasten hooks

Mesh bags for delicates

Fold knitwear; never hang it

Storage

Clean before long storage — moths eat soiled fibres

Breathable covers, not plastic

Cedar or lavender, not mothballs

Tumble dryer lint is the fabric itself. That accumulation is the garment wearing out, visibly, in the filter.