

# CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

## Washable (Synergy & Fusion) Uniforms

### Jackets and Jumpsuits

Uniforms made of 100% polyester gabardine should be washed in **cold water**. The uniforms must be washed on a gentle cycle only. **DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENERS**, as they interfere with the performance wear characteristics and basically coat the fabric and block the fabric's finish interfering with the anti-stain, wicking and breathability of the garment. Check the ingredients of your laundry detergent before washing. You should **avoid** detergents that have a **chlorine** base. The chlorine will eventually create a gray tint in the fabric of the garment and can cause color migration even in colorfast material. You should **not** use bleach at any time. The bleach will counter act with the stain finishes that are in your uniforms. It is recommended (especially if the uniform has colored trim, braid or embroidery) to wash the garment the first time by first soaking the garment in vinegar or salt water (one half cup per one half load for both salt and white vinegar). Let the garments soak for about 30 minutes, drain the water and wash again as instructed above. Using color catchers like Carbona Dye Magnet, or like products, that are designed to pick up excess dye are suggested as well. Keep in mind these recommended procedures must be done with the first washing. Stains on your uniforms should be treated immediately with products such as Shout, Zout or Oxiclean. Check the garment after washing to make sure the stain was removed. We recommend air drying, but if a dryer is to be used, use a very short cycle on cool. Shake the uniform and hang to dry on the wishbone hangers supplied with the order for best results. Heat in the dryer will break down the weave of the fabric and will also void the warranty!

**Never** press using a hot iron! Typically a light steaming will be sufficient. A professional cleaning establishment should steam press lightly using the appropriate technology if needed.

It is **not** recommended that the students be responsible for cleaning their own uniforms. It is advisable that a committee or designated adult be responsible for the washing, preferably using a professional cleaning

establishment. Always wash a few uniforms first and examine the results before proceeding with the full set of uniforms. Dividing the uniforms among several parents using the same procedure for washing and drying is acceptable. When using cleaning establishments, select only those familiar with cold water washing. Making sure the establishment is given a copy of these instructions prior to cleaning is essential. It is important to not overfill the machines when washing. One half of a normal full load is highly recommended. The uniforms must be removed from the machines immediately upon the cycle being completed. **Do not** leave the uniforms wet in the machines for an extended period. If the uniforms have extended shoulder wings, fold them back before washing. It will be necessary to have them folded back when transporting the uniforms in garment bags to prevent abrasion caused by the edge of the fabric rubbing against the bag. Always wash the coats separate from the jumpsuits or pants. Any uniform parts that have Velcro closures must have the hook and loop sides attached together. The hook side of the Velcro will cause picking of the fabric if left exposed during the washing and drying process. Zippers should be zipped and snaps snapped.

***NOTE: Stanbury recommends cold water washing over dry cleaning for all polyester gabardine fabrics. Although the uniforms are made to be washed or dry cleaned, our experience shows that washing by far produces the best results. Not only will it produce the best results both short and long term, it is far better for the environment.***

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Specialty Materials and Fabrics**

**These instructions are for specialty materials and fabrics used on certain uniforms for both washable and or dry cleanable uniforms.**

Sequins require careful hand washing. **Never use heat!** Gently wash, no more than a few at a time, and immediately hang or use drying racks to air dry or lie flat on large bath towels. It works well to place the garments on a large towel and roll the towel to remove excess moisture and then allow to dry.

**Do not allow perfume, deodorant or hair spray to come in contact with sequins. It will react with the sequin finish and destroy the color coating.**

Fabrics such as glitter, glamorous, all types of vinyl (including checkerboard) and other fabrics considered “**exotic**” should be tested before cleaning. Items such as gauntlets, front slashes and baldrics should be cold water washed separately. Air drying is the preferred method for these items and they should never be put in the dryer unless it is on the coolest setting. Cleaning these items as infrequently as possible will extend the life of these specialty materials.

**Note:** Glitter fabrics should never be dry cleaned.

**A brief summary of important points regarding washing:**

- Test a few garments first before proceeding with the first full cleaning.
- Always wash whites with whites and dark colors with dark colors.
- Separate jackets from jumpsuits and never mix when washing.
- Always wash on the cold or cool settings, both on the washer and dryer. Never wash in hot water.
- It is best to wash less than a full load at a time and it is best to only fill the machine to 1/2 capacity.
- Attach Velcro together and secure snaps before washing. Zip up zippers.
- Never use fabric softeners when washing performance wear polyester fabrics.
- Spot treat stains with non-chlorine products like Shout, Spray and Wash and such. First treat the stain by wiping with a damp cloth or sponge.
- On jackets with mixed colors, soak in white vinegar or salt water per above instructions before the first washing.
- Never use a hot iron to press. Use a steamer if needed.

## **When caught in the rain!**

Of course the best approach is to avoid this scenario if at all possible, but even the best planning can't guarantee this from occurring. If the uniforms are subjected to dampness from a light drizzle or a complete soaking from a downpour, it is imperative that the uniforms be air dried in a well-ventilated area with plenty of fans blowing to insure drying as quickly as possible.

**Never let the students take the uniforms home when wet.**

**Never put them in the garment bags until they are completely dry.**

**Never stack the uniforms or put them in a position where they touch each other until they are dry.**

***You are encouraged to call us at (800) 826-2246 for additional information and/or questions regarding washing and maintaining your Stanbury Uniforms. We are truly here to help, so do not hesitate to contact us! We are also happy to personally discuss washing, dry cleaning or any special help we can give to professional cleaning establishments.***