

30

EQUIPMENT AND SPACE FOR LAUNDERING

30.1 INTRODUCTION

So now you know what are the various types of fabrics available in the market and their typical characteristics. These characteristics will help you to choose fabrics for the purpose you want these for i.e. for apparel or linen, for daily wear or occasional wear, for winter or for summer, and so on. Do you also know that knowing these characteristics helps you in taking care of these fabrics? Can you say how?

Besides knowing about the characteristics of the fabrics for laundering you will also need to know about equipments and materials required. There are a variety of equipments and materials available in the market which can facilitate the process of laundering. In this lesson we will introduce you to many such equipments and materials and help you to relate these to the characteristics of various of fabrics.

30.2 OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson you will be able to do the following:

- name and classify various equipments used for laundering of the fabrics;
- describe the use of each equipment;
- select the use of each equipment;
- select the right equipment for right purpose and fabric;
- state the space requirement of each equipment and process.

30.3 EQUIPMENTS FOR LAUNDERING

You must be laundering your clothes everyday. Take a paper and pencil and list all that you require starting from keeping dirty clothes to sorting of the laundered clothes. Now, list some of the things which are useful and you know are in the market but you do not

possess them. Can you classify all the things you have listed into categories based on use?

Yes, you can use the following categories:

- to receive and hold dirty and finished items.
- equipment used for washing.
- equipment for ironing and finishing.

1. Equipments for receiving dirty/finished items:

Let us see what all you have listed here. Well, you are right. You will need different kind of arrangements for receiving dirty and laundered items. For receiving dirty items you will need big buckets or laundry bags. Just look around at home and see what you use for receiving dirty items and why? What else can you use?

Buckets are available in different sizes and are made of a variety of materials. Large size buckets made of plastics are good. Do you know why? They are light and do not stain the clothes. They also clean well but only if you take the pain to clean them. If you don't, they can look very dirty after sometime. And if it reaches this stage it is very difficult to clean it.

Laundry bags can be hung wherever space allows. This way they become space savers as well as offer good storage.

You will need racks or cupboard(s) to hold finished items. These can be made of wood or steel. Both are good and useful. If you are using cupboards, you will also require hangers which again are available in wood, plastic, iron with/without plastic coating and aluminium.

2. Equipments used for washing: Did you do any washing this morning or yesterday morning? What all did you use?

- Buckets/tubs 2-3
- Mug/bowls 1-2
- Scrubbing brush-1
- Washing machine
- Sink and drawing board.
- Boiler
- Wooden spoon
- Suction washer
- Rubber wringer

a) **Buckets:** For washing you can use buckets which are made up of plastic, galvanised iron, or enamel. Remember if galvanised/enamel surface is damaged the rust produced can harm the clothes. Plastic buckets are best because they are light and do not harm the clothes in anyway. Most of the chemicals used in washing also do not harm/react with plastics.

You can choose size and number of buckets according to your laundry requirements. Remember you may even have to store water for washing. Otherwise, if you can recall, the major steps of washing are soaking, washing and rinsing. For some fabrics blueing and starching may also be required. You must have adequate number of buckets to complete all these steps smoothly.

For very dirty white cottons you may need to boil. In that case a galvanised iron tub/bucket would be required. Can you say why? You can even use a big wide mouthed copper container like the one which dyers use for boiling the colour.

b) **Bowls, mugs and basins:** These are also made up of plastics, aluminium, iron, galvanised iron and enamel. These can be small, medium or large sized. You need them

for small articles, for preparing solutions, for removing stains. Just assess your requirement for these and buy them — any material is good enough.

- c) **Spoons and containers:** Use wooden spoons to handle chemicals used in laundering of clothes. Plastic spoons are too flimsy and very often they don't last. Metal spoons may react with chemicals. Just two wooden spoons would be sufficient. Containers are required for storing supplies of the laundry room. You can use plastic or glass containers. Can say why? Just take care that they have a tight lid.
- d) **Scrubbing brush:** These are required for garments which are soiled badly. Scrubbing brushes provide friction. Buy plastic brushes with hard bristles.
- e) **Suction washer:** A suction washer is used for all types of fabrics, specially those which need careful handling e.g. delicate cottons, laces, silks, organdies, etc.

It consists of two parts, the top part is a wooden handle and bottom part is made up of copper. This part is cup shaped with holes on and around the rim. Articles to be washed with suction washer are immersed in soap solution in a tub and the washer is worked up and down on the cloth for 5-10 mts. or till dirt from the garment is removed.

- f) **Rubber wringer:** It is a simple device consisting of two rubber rollers which move on each other. When a fabric is passed through them extra water is removed from it. This device can be attached to manual type of washing machines. Wringing of clothes is thus, made easy.
- g) **Washing machine:** You must have seen/operated a washing machine. If you haven't you must have seen its operation on T.V. This machine works on the principle of agitating clothes in soapy water. The friction or light pressure is provided mechanically. There are a variety of machines available in the market and depending on the functions they have, their price is fixed. There are machines which have only the function of washing. Rinsing and wringing are done outside the machine. The second type of machines are called *semi-automatic* where rinsing and spin drying are done in one tub and washing in the other. In other words these are *twin tub machines*. The third kind of machines are *fully automatic* and washing, rinsing and spin drying all are done in the same tub and in one cycle. Obviously these are the most expensive machines. Remember, machines can wash one or two clothes at a time but it is economical to wash a full load.

- h) **Sinks:** It is advisable to have a sink fitted for washing because it reduces the amount of work and labour involved in washing of clothes. Can you say how? Well, yes, you do not have to bother about filling up 2-3 different buckets to soak, wash and rinse. Everything can be done under the tap in the sink and at one place.

While getting a sink installed see that it is of good size and at a place and height from floor which facilitates washing. A sink that is too high or too low can be very uncomfortable to your back and a sink small in size would make washing difficult.

Also see that there is a drawing board on the side. This can provide the counter for keeping things required during washing.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.1

A. Tick the most appropriate answer:

The equipment common washing and receiving dirty clothes is

- a) buckets
b) mugs

- c) rubber wringer
- d) washing machine
- 2. Are best for washing
 - a) plastic buckets
 - b) galvanised iron buckets
 - c) enamel buckets
 - d) any of the above
- 3. A rubber wringer can
 - a) drive out extra water
 - b) remove unwanted stains
 - c) drive out extra soap
 - d) help to do all the three
- 4. A suction washer has the same function as a
 - a) rubber wringer
 - b) scrubbing brush
 - c) automatic washing machine
 - d) twin tub washing machine
- 5. Boiling is used for washing of
 - a) delicate clothes
 - b) heavy cottons
 - c) nylons
 - d) dirty clothes
- 6. Clothes have to be transferred while washing from one tub to another in
 - a) manual type of washing machine
 - b) semi automatic washing machine
 - c) fully automatic washing machine
 - d) all types of washing machines.
- 7. Height of a sink for washing clothes is important because of the
 - a) comfort
 - b) size
 - c) height of the tap
 - d) all the above
- 8. You can use laundry bags to
 - a) save floor space
 - b) accomodate more clothes
 - c) leave bucket free
 - d) sort out clothes.

3. DRYING EQUIPMENT

After washing how do you dry your clothes? Is it true that we dry our clothes only outside?
Drying can be:

- a) **Outdoor drying:** The clothes line could be made of cotton, hemp or galvanised iron wire either solid or twisted. The best place to dry clothes is outdoor in clean air and sunshine. The line should be kept clean by wiping it with clean damp cloth or else it will stain the articles dried on it.
- f) **Indoor drying :** Drying clothes in rainy season is always a problem which can be solved by arranging for a rack which can be put in an airy corner of the working place. Rack can be either of folding type made of Aluminium which can be used both indoors and outdoors or the racks hanging from the ceiling with the help of pulleys. The purpose of pulleys is to bring the rack down when needed.
 - You can also fix a wire at a height in the room to dry clothes.
 - Some fabrics need to be dried flat on the floor like wool, lace, knitted fabrics. Hence some flats surfaces are needed to dry such clothes.
 - Hangers and clothes pegs are also needed to keep garments on to racks or wire. They can be of either plastic or aluminium.

4. Ironing and finishing equipment

Can you name a few essentials for good finishing? Yes, you need:

- a) **Ironing board:** It is a padded but hard surfaced board big enough to accommodate the article to be ironed. Ironing boards are available in the market. These have hard padded surface and are also collapsible, hence easy to move or keep away when not in use. It can also be fitted into the wall and thus save space on the ground. You can use a table covered with a blanket and then a sheet as a substitute of ironing board.
- b) **Sleeve board:** You can use this to iron smaller areas of garments like sleeves, gathers, darts. It is a small padded board which can fit into closed areas to facilitate ironing.
- c) **Iron with a thermostat**

You must have seen electric irons with thermostatic control. They are available in varying sizes and designs with various surfaces which are rustproof, hence do not need cleaning. The thermostatic control helps to regulate temperature of the iron to suit it to the needs of different fabrics. In the absence of a steam iron, you can put a damp muslin cloth between the fabric and the iron and press it. The steam coming out of it will help in removing creases.

30.4 MANAGEMENT FOR LAUNDRY PROCESSES

Since laundry service can be provided to people effectively, with less investment, you can manage all the processes of Laundry in a small room or house if space management is done properly. You can follow the given tips to manage the unit effectively.

- (i) Receiving and storage of dirty articles should be kept away from finished articles.
- (ii) Washing area should be tiled which can be cleaned easily.
- (iii) Area under the sink could be used to store articles like suction washer, etc.
- (iv) Separate cupboards are needed for washing aids, auxiliaries and stain removing agents.
- (v) a multipurpose cabinet could be used to store all equipment neatly and systematically.

(vi) Laundry processes should be carried out and space allocated should be in correspondence with it.

(vii) Folding should be done properly to hold articles neatly.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 30.2

1. Tick the most appropriate answer.

i) For good effect in ironing clothes the surface should be

a) hard c) hard and padded

b) padded d) hard or padded

ii) Damp muslin cloth between iron and the fabric is kept to

a) remove creases c) remove any stains

b) ease ironing d) avoid damage to fabric.

2. State whether the following are True or false.

i) A thermostat on the iron controls its heat.

ii) A sleeve board has the same functions as ironing board.

iii) If an iron has chromium plating it is rust free.

iv) Damp muslin cloth between iron and fabric is to remove creases from the fabric.

v) All supplies for laundry can be stored in the same cupboard.

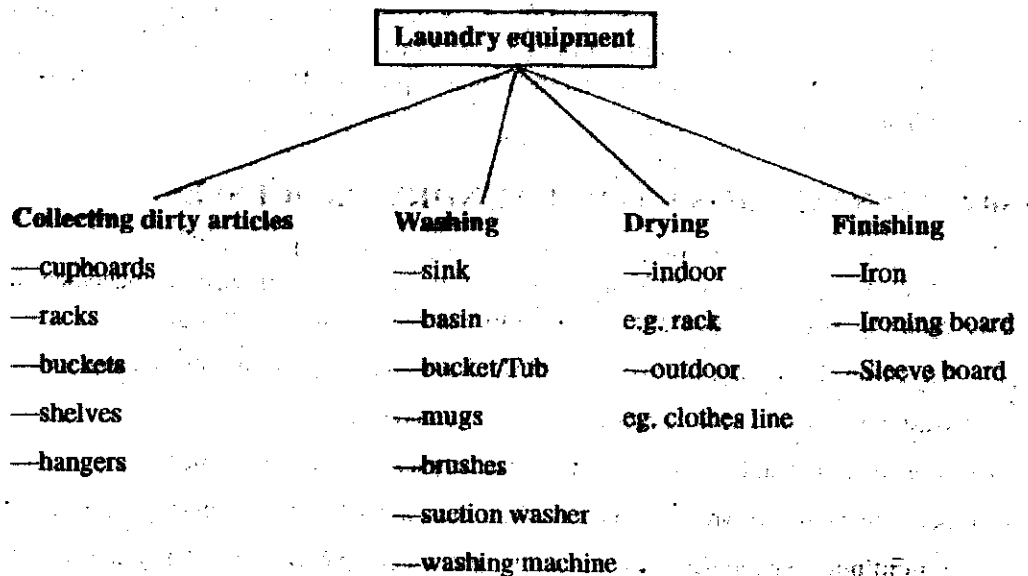
vi) Storage of finished and dirty articles can be in the same cupboard because it will help in saving space.

viii) Proper folding of clothes is done to hold articles neatly.

3. Name what you can use for the outdoor drying.

4. What all can you use for drying clothes indoor.

30.5 WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT



30.6 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. List the equipments required for washing clothes.
2. Write the precautions to be kept in mind while using
 - i) Buckets
 - ii) Spoons
 - iii) Scrubbing brush
 - iv) Sinks
3. What is the difference between the various types of washing machines available?
4. Differentiate between indoor and outdoor drying.
5. What points will you keep in mind to manage your unit efficiently?

30.7 ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

- 30.1 1. a, (2) d, (3) a, (4) d, (5) b, (6) a, (7) a, (8) a.
- 30.2 1. (i) c, (ii) a.
2. (i) T, (ii) T, (iii) T, (iv) T, (v) T, (vi) F, (vii) T.
3. i) Clothes line (of hemp or galvanised iron /wire-solid or twisted)
 ii) Rack-clothes put on it and kept outside in the sun.
 iii) Flat clean floor.
 iv) Hangers and clothes pegs (for putting clothes on rack and wire)
4. i) Racks (folding type, or hanging one with pulleys)
 ii) Wire at the height of the room.
 iii) Flat on floor; any empty space inside.
 iv) Hangers and clothes pegs (for putting clothes on racks and wire).