

LAUNDRY BLUES- TYPES AND USES

By

Chhaya Verma

LAUNDRY BLUES

- White fabrics acquire a slight yellow color due to repeated washing.
- Since blue and yellow are complementary colors, adding a trace of blue color to the slightly off-white color of these fabrics makes them appear whiter.
- Bluing is not permanent and rinses out over time leaving dingy or yellowed whites.
- Bluing products improve the brightness of white fabrics by adding a blue pigment that counteracts the natural yellowing that occurs during laundry.

TYPES OF BLUES

- Blues can be classified into two categories on the basis of their solubility in water.
- **Soluble blues-** soluble blues form clear solutions when dissolved in water for example, coal-tar dyes, methyl violet and methylene blue.
- **Insoluble blues-** these blues do not form clear solution in water e.g., ultramarine blue and prussian blue.

ULTRA MARINE BLUES

- Ultra marine blues are made from soda ash, sodium sulphate, charcoal, sulphur and clay.
- It is the most commonly used blue.
- Its large particles cause specks on fabric.
- It is used by tying in a muslin cloth for dissolving in water solves the problem.

PRUSSIAN BLUES

- Prussian blues are formed from iron sulphate and potassium ferrocyanide, ferric ferrocyanide (blue iron salt).
- It gives rusty marks when the treated fabric is ironed.
- This blue is not very commonly used.

INDIGO BLUES

- Indigo blues are made from leaves of indigo plant (*Indigofera tinctoria*).
- It is very expensive.
- It gives dull blue colour.
- It is not much used in laundry, but it is very much used for dyeing of clothes.

SOLUBLE BLUES

- Soluble blues are most commonly used in laundry because:
- They are easy to apply.
- They give uniform colour throughout the fabric.
- They leave no sediment.
- Examples: Aniline blue and coal tar dye.
- These blues have great affinity for clothes.
- They are purplish blue and give whitish tone.

METHODS OF BLUEING

- Clothes intended for blueing should be rinsed thoroughly in order to remove the soap or any kind of impurities present in the clothes.
- Blue is applied in the last rinse.
- Tie blue in a muslin cloth/ bag. Stir the bag in water till the desired shade of blue is achieved. It should be pale blue.
- Immerse the clothes in it one by one.
- Stir clothes up and down 2-3 times.
- Squeeze the clothes and dry in sun.
- Starching and blueing can be done simultaneously.
- If over blueing is done, rinse the fabrics or treat it with acetic acid.

COMMERCIAL BLUES

- Commercial bluing products are highly concentrated and must be diluted before using to prevent permanent staining and streaking.
- Liquid bluing is a colloidal suspension of a very fine blue iron powder and water. Other ingredients include a pH balancer and a biocide to prevent the buildup of algae and bacteria.
- Laundry detergents may also use fluorescent whiteners to get similar effect. Many white fabrics are blued during manufacturing.



THANK YOU