



HAND-WASHING YOUR KNITS

Factory Girl recommends you wash your wool garments before you put them away for storage - this will ensure that no residual dirt, makeup, perfume, and/or skin oils damage the garment or attract natural fiber lovers like moths.

Hand washing is the best way to clean your wool garments as it is a much gentler process than washing with a machine. In the words of June Hemmons Hiatt (No we're not related...at least as far as I know!), author of *The Principles of Knitting*, hand washing your knits “is somewhat like baking bread; you deal with it lovingly every now and then for just a few minutes, and then you ignore it for a while.”

Step by step recommendations for you to get started:

01 Fill a clean sink or basin with water. For water temperature and soaking time, follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for the yarn used. I typically use cold water and soak for 15 minutes.

02 Soak. Submerge the fabric, gently squeezing out any air bubbles so the piece can remain under the water without being held there. Never place any wool item under running water as this motion may felt or pull the wool. You can add a small amount of delicate dish soap, rinseless wool wash (My favorite is [Soak Wash](#)); if not rinseless, you will need to re-submerge the piece in clean water once or twice to remove the soap from your fabric.

03 Once your garment has finished soaking, lift it out of the water, making sure to support its weight evenly so the wet fabric doesn’t sag and stretch the garment – wool can absorb a lot of water and become quite heavy!

04 Gently squeeze (never wring) to remove excess water. Then roll the garment in a towel “burrito-style” to squeeze out more moisture.

05 Lay the damp garment flat to air-dry over a layer of fresh towels or on top of blocking mats. After you initial blocking, wool garments rarely need another stretching and pinning. However, if you are concerned that certain areas of your garment have changed in size during wear, definitely pin them back to your desired measurements while it’s still damp. If using towels, after a couple of hours, flip the garment over and lay a new towel underneath.
