



Ironing

Steaming Your Clothes

Using a steamer can be a great alternative to ironing your clothes. Be sure to check the fabric label first, to see whether it says, “do not steam.” There could be a small drawing that shows an iron, with an X across the bottom where steam would come out.

Steaming Tips

- To steam clothing, put the item on a hanger, and hang it up on a shower rod, or on a hook on the back of a door. It's helpful to have a table or counter nearby where you can put the steamer down.
- Fill the steamer with water before plugging it in.
 - Use a funnel, a turkey baster, or a squeeze bottle with a small tip to slowly pour water into the opening. It's also helpful to do your pouring over a sink or on a tray.
 - Use a towel to dry off the steamer when you're done, in case any water has spilled.
- Plug in the steamer and wait for it to heat up.
 - Some steamers have a light to indicate when they're ready, and you might hear a click.
 - Or you can simply wait a couple of minutes to be sure your steamer has reached the right temperature.

- Before applying steam to your fabric, hold the steamer facing away from you, at arm's length, and press the button to turn on the steam.
 - You may hear a sputtering sound at first. Wait until you hear steady steam coming out, to be sure the steamer isn't spitting out drops of water. This could take several seconds, or even a minute.
- When you have a continuous flow of steam, it's a good idea to test a small area of the fabric that doesn't show.
 - Apply steam to the inside of a hem, a cuff, or a seam, and let it dry. Then check to see whether the color is still OK.
- When you're ready to steam the garment, hold the fabric taut by pulling down on the area you're ready to steam. Then use the steamer to make strokes up and down, keeping the steamer about 6 inches away from the fabric.
- For any areas that tend to be more wrinkled, hold the steamer over that area for about 30 seconds.
- Let the garment dry before you wear it or put it away. This avoids making new wrinkles, and it helps keep extra moisture out of your closet.