Laundry Care Symbols

Read the tag in order: wash, bleach, dry, iron, dry clean. An X means "don't." More dots mean more heat.

1 WASHING
The tub



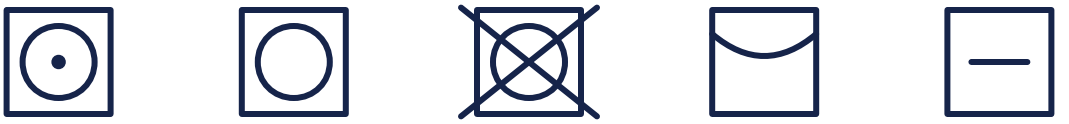
- **Machine wash** — any normal temp.
- **Wash cold** — 1 dot · up to 86°F
- **Wash warm** — 2 dots · about 105°F
- **Wash hot** — 3 dots · about 120°F (more dots = hotter)
- **Hand wash** — gently, by hand
- **Do not wash** — see other care

2 BLEACHING
The triangle



- **Any bleach** — when needed
- **Non-chlorine** — color-safe only
- **Do not bleach** — no bleach at all

3 DRYING
The square



- **Tumble dry low** — 1 dot · low heat
- **Tumble dry** — normal · any heat
- **Do not tumble dry** — no dryer
- **Line dry** — hang to dry
- **Dry flat** — lay on a towel

4 IRONING
The iron



- **Iron low** — 1 dot · e.g. nylon
- **Iron medium** — 2 dots · e.g. polyester
- **Iron high** — 3 dots · e.g. cotton
- **Do not iron** — no iron or press

5 DRY CLEANING
The circle



- **Dry clean** — take to a cleaner
- **Do not dry clean** — not for dry cleaning

U.S. care symbols (ASTM D5489 / FTC Care Labeling Rule). When in doubt, follow the garment's own label.

From *Entering Adulthood* by Glenda Mays Shaw