

# WINTER SPORTS CLOTHES NEED SUMMER CARE

by **Emelia Franks**

**W**INTER is a time when most people enjoy taking part in winter sports — whether it's a refreshing day on the ski slopes, skating, snowmobiling, tobogganing, or just enjoying a peaceful walk in the fresh fallen snow.

However, with summer on the way, it's time to start thinking of putting the family's winter sports clothes into storage. There are one or two things you should do before you pack the clothes away until next winter.

First check the labels on garments for manufacturer's instructions. If an item is marked "Dry Clean Only", don't attempt to wash it. This applies particularly to ski wear as many of the fabrics used have a waterproof finish and have to be specially treated during cleaning.

Another common stain, particularly from tobogganing, skiing or being sprayed by traffic on the streets is mud. Again, if treated properly, it can be removed without too much difficulty. Let the mud dry and brush off as much as possible before washing in the hottest water safe for the fabric. If the stain remains, sponge it with rubbing alcohol and launder again.

Boy's winter sports equipment, particularly hockey gear, can

collect more stains in one game than most people's clothes do in a week. Ground in mud, perspiration and blood as well as plain old dirt are especially hard to remove.

All stains should be pretreated before washing. Stubborn ones such as blood and perspiration need special attention. Wet the area with cold water and rub or brush in an additive like Borateem. These stains may have to be treated two or three times before they are fully removed.

If a garment is a pure wool or wool and blend, it should be washed by hand in warm water. Before washing check the garment for any spots or stains and pre-treat them in the same way. (Wet area with cold water and rub in a borax based additive like Borateem). If you add a half-cup of Borateem to the detergent or soap when washing, it will help boost the cleaning action and prevent mildew forming while the garment is in storage.

I hope these hints will help make storing your winter

clothes a little easier this year. Now to answer some of the queries I have recently received.

**Mrs. J. MacDonald**  
Winnipeg, Manitoba asks:  
While skiing this winter, I received an oil or grease stain on my sweater from the T-Bar. Can I remove this stain easily at home, or should I have it dry cleaned?

You can treat this stain at home quite easily. Simply wet the area with cold water and rub or brush in Boraxo powdered hand soap, then launder in the usual way.

**Mrs. H. Crosby**  
Hamilton, Ontario asks:  
When washing multi-colored man-made fabrics, is there a test before you start your wash to ensure the colors are fast?

Yes, Mrs. Crosby. Take a pencil eraser and try to rub some color off an unseen inside seam. If the color erases, the garment will have to be handled with particular care. Soak the garment in warm water for 20 minutes adding a quarter cup of Borateem and soap or detergent, then gently hand wash. If the garment is wash-'n'-wear or permanent press, hang dripping wet to dry. If the color does not rub off, wash in the usual way.

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