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SIDENVÄVERI MUSEUM

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PURVEYOR TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

The Washing Book

Some advice on how to use the Almgren Washing Soap

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Silk fabrics have been woven since the year 4000 B C.

The fabric is made from the very fine thread that the silk worm produces for making its cocoon. The most careful handling is required to keep its verve and lustre through the process to the finished fabric.

The glue called ceresin that holds the cocoon together is dissolved. To prevent the fibre from impoverishing fat is to be added. This is the secret with the washing soap. It is based on refined vegetable oils and has a fat content of 78 %. It is free from bleach and perfumes and doesn't contain any to man or nature hazardous substances.

Almgren weaving mill was established in 1833. During the first 140 years silk fabrics were produced for palaces and mansions in Sweden and abroad. The last silk fabric was woven in 1943 and the following years the mills only product was ribbons of an order, until 1974 when the factory closed down. After 17 years of no activity the museum opened in 1991.

Today the rattle from the 150 years old looms sounds again. The production consists of fabrics made for the Royal Palace of Drottningholm as well as ties just like in the old days. We also welcome visitors on our regular guided tours of the factory and pre booked groups.

It's our speciality to administer this old knowledge and tradition and that is why we decided to produce the best washing soap there is. Only the very best is good enough, and that is significant for the quality of our silk - the best. The soap is produced in Sweden. In this little book you get some basic rules for using the soap, and some tips from private persons using it. Good luck and enjoy your reading!

Basic information

This soap is intended for water washing of textiles, leather, chamois leather, wool, fur etc. The high content of vegetable oils refats the material during the washing process. Rinse the fabric carefully so that a small amount of soap is left within it. This will not leave marks or shades. It is always better to wash the whole garment if possible as the water tends to leave a ring when washing single stains.

Tips and advice from users

CARPETS: I had left my Chinese carpet for dry-cleaning and got it back in a condition that I wasn't very pleased with. The old stains from red wine were still there. I crossed my fingers as I rubbed Almgren washing soap onto the carpet with a wet towel and worked on the stains with small movements. I was very surprised when most of the stains dissolved immediately. Then I just had to dry off the lather. The former stains had become cleaner than the rest of the carpet so I started washing the whole thing with enthusiasm. The result was a beautiful soft carpet with wonderful lustre and shine.

MONICA WÄSTERLUND

CAR INTERIORS, OIL STAINS: I was very proud of my newly bought second-hand car. Unfortunately, the gearbox broke and I had to leave it at the garage for nine weeks! What an agony! When I finally got it back, the inside of the doors and the carpet was full of dark old oil, all made filthy by the mechanic. To prevent a nervous breakdown, I decided not to start a meaningless argumentation with the firm. Instead I put my hope on Almgren Washing Soap. With warm water on a cloth and a little bit of soap I rubbed the oil stains and they actually disappeared without leaving changes in colour. It might not have been so strange, as fat dissolves fat and the Almgren Washing Soap has a content of 78% vegetable oil. Anyhow, the problem was solved and from this moment on I always clean the interior this way, keeping the car in a splendid condition, with an odour as if it was new. *OSCAR ALMGREN*

LINEN: After a dinner my linen tablecloth had got big red wine stains. I hadn't, as I normally do, put salt on them to suck up the red liquid. I had bought a washing soap at Almgren and decided to give it a chance. I had nothing to lose as the cloth was destroyed anyway. I put hot water in the bathtub and put the cloth into it. I rubbed the soap onto the cloth and saw how the stains spread! I became angry and threw the cloth into the washing machine together with some ordinary washing powder. After the completed program the stains were all gone! That's because the washing soap got to work on the stains. Today I always follow the same procedure when washing my linen, but I have replaced the washing powder towards flakes of the Almgren Washing Soap that I grate with a grater down into the powder compartment of the washing machine.

MONICA WÄSTERLUND

YOUR OWN SKIN: I have for many years been suffering from psoriasis, especially inside the palm of my hands. After a visit at Almgren weaving mill I decided to try washing my eczema with the washing soap. After a couple of weeks the crusts disappeared and the skin softened. The soap doesn't cure the disease but it relieves the symptoms. Nowadays I use the washing soap for my whole body and feel much better.

ANONYMOUS

DOGS ETC.: I have got a Jack Russell. The dog, Bobby, is quite demanding, just like me. Bobby gets dirty from our long walks and sometimes it's necessary to give him a bath. As animals tend to more easily dry out and I'd heard that the Almgren washing soap was good for sensitive human skin, I decided to try it on Bobby. It should work. I put the dog in the bathtub and washed him with the soap. I noticed how he enjoyed the treatment. I rinsed him gently and dried him with a towel. It was a very content dog that settled down in a sunny spot to let the sun dry his fur.

LENNART PETTERSSON

SILK FABRIC: Imported died fabrics might run abundantly. Dip the textile in tepid water. Work with the soap directly on the fabric or grate flakes of it with a grater which you dissolve in the water before you soak the silk in it. Work as fast as possible. Take up the fabric and rinse it quickly. Put it in the centrifuge just for a few seconds to get rid of the surplus water. Hang it or put it out on a towel to dry.

SIMBRA SIDEN, JÄRNA

SILK TIES: To wash a silk tie you will need a tie stretcher. You can buy those at Almgren weaving mill and at well-assorted gentlemen's outfitter's shops. Put the stretcher into the tie. Spray it with water. Use the soap directly on the tie and rub it clean. Rinse gently. Hang it from the shower curtain with the stretcher inside. Let it drip-dry. OBS! Always pre-wash the other end to make sure that the colour doesn't run. On the other hand, if you already have spilled on the tie you can't use it anyway. You may wash ties made of different materials with the stretcher and the washing soap.

OSCAR ALMGREN

LEATHER PANTS, LEATHER JACKETS, and SUEDE: My son loves his leather pants and always wears them, like teenagers do. In the end it became absolutely necessary to wash them. I poured tepid water into the bathtub and put down both the jacket and the pants. I rubbed them intently with the Almgren washing soap. Then I left them for a while in the soapy water. I showered them with cold water, but very little, because leaving soap in the material refats it and prevents it from drying out. I put the garments out on a towel to dry. The day after when they had dried, I stretched them and they were like new again!

CHRISTINA SUNDBERG

WOOL: The fibre of the sheep fur naturally contains a degree of fat. That's why wool jumpers are so lovely when they are new. Unfortunately, most washing powders are too hard on the wool and impoverish the fibres. Low pH values don't help much. I put my favourite jumper in tepid water as usually, but this time I worked on it immediately with the Almgren Washing Soap. I left it in the water for a while and rinsed it very gently. I pressed out the surplus water and let it dry lying on a towel. Once it dried it was actually softer than when it was new and it doesn't itch any longer.

OSCAR ALMGREN

COTTON, VISCOSE, and ETC. FOR WASHING IN WASHING MACHINE: It is a good idea to use the Almgren Washing Soap in the washing machine. You simply use a grater to grate the soap into flakes that you put into the compartment for washing powder. It works just as well in 30 degrees

Celsius as in 90. Rinse only once if possible, and if the washing advice admits it, centrifuge. You don't need any softener; the soap does that for you!

OSCAR ALMGREN

DOWN JACKETS, QUILTS, PILLOWS: Wash in machine in accordance with the same procedure, in 60 degrees Celsius, centrifuge and tumble-dry. Put a sneaker or a tennis ball in the tumbler to get the down or feathers really fluffy.

OSCAR ALMGREN

Do you have any positive or negative feedback regarding the soap? Please share it with us in order to develop The Washing Book.

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