

Dry-Cleaning

Some fabrics such as wool, kente, etc. can be damaged by washing them ordinarily in water. Such fabrics need to be dry-cleaned. Dry-cleaning is a method of cleaning fabrics without water, but with special dry-cleaning solvents.

Advantages of Dry-cleaning

1. Articles, especially those made of wool or cotton, do not shrink when dry-cleaned.
2. Dry-cleaning does not change the size, shape, appearance, and other details (e.g pleats) of a garment.
3. Dyes do not run with dry-cleaning, because dry-cleaning solvents do not react with the fibres of the fabric or with dye stuffs in the same way as water does.
4. Dry-cleaned articles requires little or no ironing or pressing.
5. Some finishes, such as stiffenings, are not removed by dry-cleaning as is the case with washing.

Dry-cleaning solvents can catch fire easily. They should be stored in well-labelled containers away from the kitchen and fire. Home dry-cleaning is hazardous and must be carried out very carefully on a very small scale. It is better to employ the services of professional dry-cleaners.