

Unit 8

IRONING

Can you tell?

- Do you wear ironed clothes
- Why clothes are ironed
- What difference you find between ironed clothes and clothes not ironed
- Prior to invention of the iron, what procedure was used to iron the clothes.
- Which types of irons do you know.

Ironing is the process of removing wrinkles by heat and pressure. This process is required after washing the clothes to regain its attractive look. This process of ironing is done with the use of an iron which is a small appliance used for this purpose.

Irons are available in various types

8.1 TYPES OF IRONS

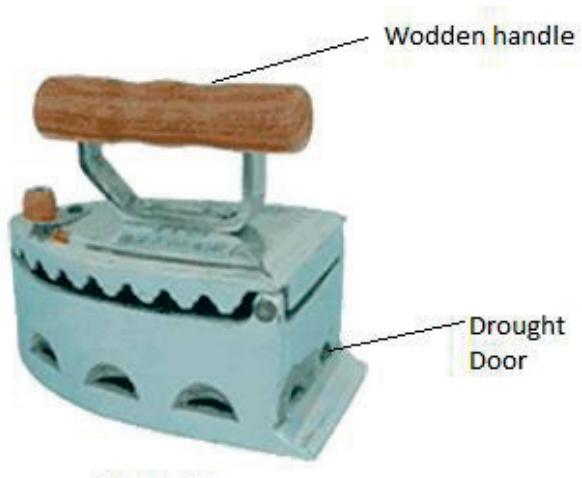
The commonly used irons are

1. Charcoal iron
2. Thermostatic iron
3. Steam iron

1. CHARCOAL IRON :

A charcoal iron consists of a metal box with a lid and a wooden handle at the top.

When the iron has to be used a few pieces of fresh charcoal is heated and placed inside the box and then the lid is closed. The draught door at the back of the iron is left open to let air in, which keeps the charcoal burning.



Picture No. 8.1 Charcoal Iron

This iron is useful where electric supply is not available.

• Disadvantage :

- a) This type of iron need to be replenished every time with fresh live charcoal.
- b) Tiny pieces of live charcoal or ash escapes and falls on the fabric. So cannot be used for delicate fabrics.
- c) Temperature cannot be controlled or regulated.

2. THERMOSTATIC IRON:

A Thermostatic iron is also called as an automatic iron where the temperature is regulated by an adjustable thermostatic control as per the fabric origin. The Thermostatic irons have an indication lamp which glows when the current is switched on and goes off when the iron gets heated up to the set temperature.



Picture No. 8.2 Thermostatic Iron

The adjustable knob on the top of the iron selects the temperature as required for the fabric being ironed

A thermostatic irons are light in weight and safe to use.

3. STEAM IRON:

Steam iron is an electric iron with a built in reservoir. It is filled with water. When the current is switched on, water boils and steam is emitted through the holes at the ironing surface.

The clothes need not be previously dampened when the steam iron is used. Hard water should not be used in the steam iron.



Picture No. 8.3 Steam Iron

8.2 IRONING BOARD

The ironing board is an equipment which facilitate ironing easily in the standing position. The ironing board has a flat surface with its padded with flannel with a firm woven cover which is stretched properly and fastened well so as to make the surface smooth. The left side of the flat surface of the board is tapering which allows ironing of skirts and shorts easily. At the right side of the board, there is an asbestos piece which is fixed to place the iron safely on it.



Picture No. 8.4 Ironing Board

The ironing board is generally collapsible and can be folded easily. It does not require much space for storing when not in use.

8.3 USE AND CARE WHILE USING IRON

1. Always use three pin plug for the iron.
2. Fit plug pin into the plug on the switch board and then switch on the button.
3. Set the appropriate temperature with the help of a dial of thermostat.
4. Always keep the iron on iron rest when it is hot or keep it on the asbestos pad in a flat position.
5. Do not use any hard, sharp or pointed object to remove and clean stains on the sole plate.
6. Avoid moving on hard objects like pins, zippers or buttons, on surface of the iron.
7. Hold the plug while removing plug pins from the switch board.
8. Do not wind the cord around the iron.

Do you know?

Temperature used according to the fibre while ironing different clothes :-

Fibre	Temperature °celsius
1) Dacron (polyster)	107
2) Nylon (orlon)	149
3) Silk/woollen	149
4) Rayon	191
5) Cotton	218

8.4 METHODS OF IRONING

Various methods are used to make the garments appear attractive and neat.

The methods include: ironing, pressing, steaming and roll pressing:

a) **IRONING:** It consists of moving hot iron forward and backward along the warp yarns of the fabric with pressure. The temperature of the iron and the amount of pressure applied depend on the texture and the nature of the fabric.

The damped garment is opened out and stretched to its original shape. Double parts on hem are ironed from the wrong side, moving the hot iron in the direction of warp yarns. Then the right side is turned out to iron the rest of the garment.

b) **PRESSING:** It consists of placing a hot iron on a creased portion of the fabric and then lifting it up. This operation is repeated till the crease disappear.

Fabrics with special texture like georgette and crepe are finished by pressing.

c) **STEAMING:** This process allowed the steam to pass through the surface of the fabric. When the steam passes through the fabric it helps to raise and freshen up. The damp garment is held in front of a very hot iron. The heat of the iron converts moisture into steam, which while escaping through the fabric straightens the pile.

Fabrics with pile surface like velvet or velveteen is finished by this method.

d) **ROLL PRESSING:** This process is used in commercial laundries. It consists of a series of smooth metal rollers which are rotating at a specific speed, the fabric is kept manually between the two heated rollers which while rotating dries the moisture. The material is ironed out due to the pressure caused by the rotation.

Roll pressing is done to iron straight pieces of cotton or linen bedsheets, curtains, sarees etc.

Internet my friend

Prepare the list of irons manufactured by various companies mentioning their names which operate with the help of “thermostat” device. What difference was noticed. Discuss in the class.

Interesting Historical Facts:

Inventors their Inventions

Haffman Adon J.

American inventors in 1905, of the pressing machine, which revolutionized the garment Industries throughout the world.

EXERCISE

Objective Type Questions

1. Match the columns :

A		B	
1.	Charcoal Iron	a)	Pile Fabrics
2.	Thermostatic Iron	b)	Commercial Laundry
3.	Steaming	c)	Easy to Iron skirts
4.	Roll Pressing	d)	Adjustable knob
5.	Ironing Board	e)	Heavy weight

2. State whether following statements are True or False.

1. In a Charcoal iron the temperature can be controlled.
2. Thermostatic iron is easy to handle
3. In a steam iron water should not be filled in it.

4. Ironing Board requires a big place to store when not in use.

3. Name the following :

1. Name the parts of a charcoal iron.
2. Name the method ironing used for georgette.

Short Type Answers

1. Give reasons for the following :

1. Charcoal Iron is not used on delicate fabrics.
2. Thermostatic Irons are easy to handle.
3. A steam iron can be used safely for silk fabrics.
4. Steaming method is used for pile fabrics.

2. **Give differences between :**

1. Charcoal iron and thermostatic iron.
2. Thermostatic iron and steam iron.
3. Ironing and pressing.
4. Ironing and roll pressing.
5. Ironing and steaming.

Long Type Answers

1. Explain the types of irons with the diagram.
2. Explain the methods of ironing.
3. Discuss the points to be kept in mind while using the iron

Field Work

- Visit a commercial laundry and write a report

Project / Self Study

- Collect the information about various types of ironing and stick the pictures related to them in a scrapbook.

