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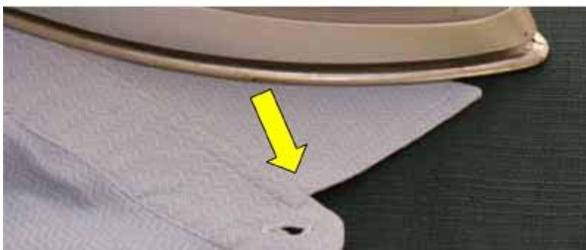
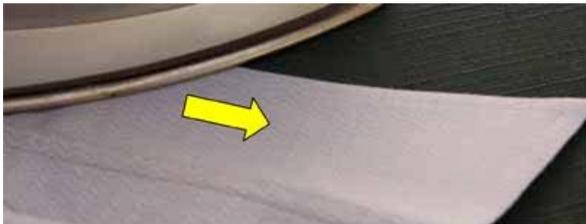
Ironing Instructions

How To Properly Iron a Dress Shirt

1. Iron the Collar First

Always start by ironing your [dress shirt collar](#). This is the most visible part of a shirt as it frames the face, especially when worn [with a suit](#). **In a pinch and when wearing a jacket, you can get away with ironing only your collar, the front area right below it, and your cuffs.** Just don't take off your jacket!

To iron the shirt collar, pop it up and start with the underside, slowly pressing the iron from one point to the other. Ensure that it is thoroughly moist before starting, and **if any wrinkles appear, press them to the bottom where they'll be less visible.** Next, flip the shirt over and repeat this process on the outside of the collar.



2. Next Iron the Cuffs

As mentioned above, I iron the cuffs next as they receive a lot of attention when worn properly with a jacket.

To iron a shirt cuff, first unbutton it (to include the gauntlet button) and lay it out flat. First iron the inside of the cuff, and next the outside, moving all wrinkles from uneven fabric to the edges. Carefully iron around the buttons, and even on the backside. Never iron over buttons!

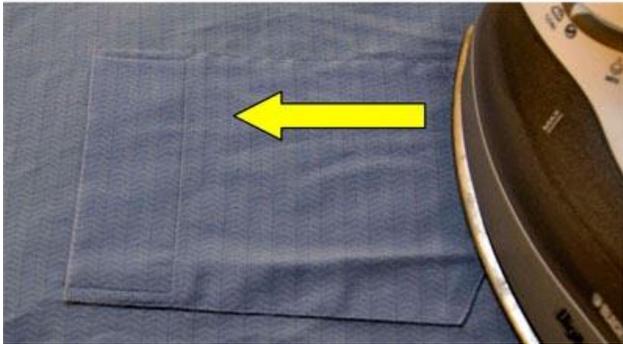
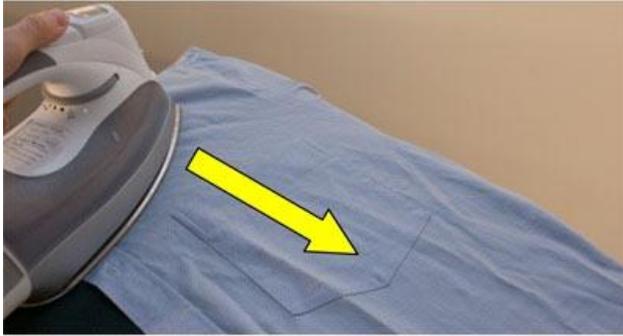


3. Ironing the Shirt Front

Start with the side that has buttons and carefully work the iron point around the button area (never over the buttons).



Then move back up to the top of the shoulder and work your way down the shirt with the iron. Repeat on the other side, and if you have a placket, press the material under it with the iron point and then over the top. It's worth spending a bit more time on the front placket and areas near the collar as they receive a high percentage of visual attention.



4. Iron the Back of the Shirt

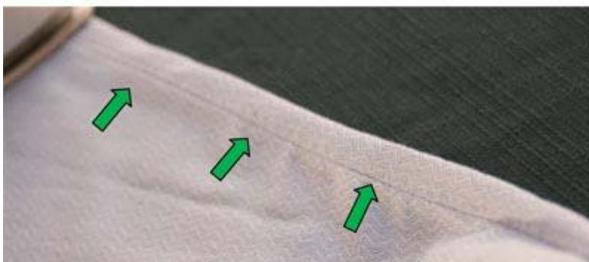
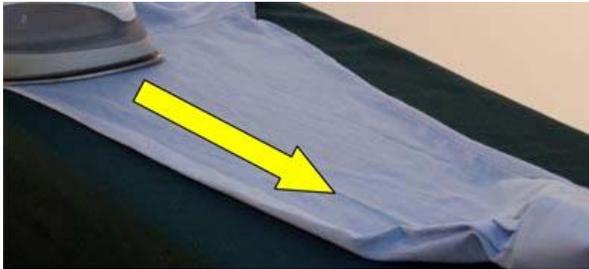
Laying the shirt flat on the board, I like to **position one of the sleeve heads into the square edge of the ironing board**. You then have half the back in prime position to be ironed, and only need to slide the shirt over to complete the other half. Start at the top with the yoke (back shoulder area) and slowly slide the iron down. If you have a center box pleat, you'll have to spend a few seconds ironing around it—I prefer not to iron back in the pleat, as the time required for an area you don't want to highlight isn't worth the effort.



5. Iron the Sleeves

I choose to iron sleeves last as of all the parts of the shirt, they can be ironed in the widest variety of ways and for most men are the trickiest part of the shirt. Problems arise from the fact that unless you have a sleeve board, you'll be ironing two layers of fabric. **Thus the key to ironing sleeves is to be sure the fabric is flat and smooth BEFORE you apply the iron.**

Take either sleeve by the seam and lay the whole sleeve (and most of the shirt) flat on the ironing board. If you can see the creases on the top of the sleeve from previous ironing, match it again so that you have a single crease line. Start ironing at the top where the sleeve is sewn onto the shirt and work your way down to the cuff. Turn the sleeve over and iron, then repeat the process with the other sleeve. **If you don't have a sleeve board and would rather your shirt sleeve not have a crease, insert a rolled-up towel into the sleeve.** This will allow you to iron it without leaving a crease mark.



6. Inspect & Hang

Inspect the shirt and spot iron where necessary. Finally, place the shirt on a hanger and hang and into your closet.

Three Warnings

1. **If you are not sure of the [shirt's fiber type](#), err on the side of caution and iron it with a lower setting.** You can always increase the temperature... but you cannot fix heat damaged fabric.
2. **Iron around buttons, never over them.** Even if there is fabric laying over the button, as in the case of a pocket with under-buttons or a dress shirt with a [hidden button down collar](#). You can create a permanent impression that will ruin the look of the shirt. Be sure to remove shirt stays as well.
3. **Never iron a dirty shirt**—you'll set the stains, and it will be very difficult if not impossible to remove them.

Final Quick Ironing Tips

Iron your shirts in batches. Ironing a shirt only takes a few minutes, but half of that time is taken up with preparation—getting the ironing board set up, the iron filled and hot, etc. So use your time more effectively by ironing all your shirts in one batch instead of whenever you need one.

Anytime you are using a questionable iron that may leave marks, turn the shirt inside out and iron the backside only. It won't give the shirt as crisp a look, but the difference is negligible and any marks will be invisible once the shirt is turned back out correctly.

Pay attention to the condition of the ironing board cover and pad – if it looks like it could leave any type of mark or you can feel metal underneath, cover it with a cotton towel or look for another board.

Make sure your iron has an auto-shutoff. Although most modern household irons do, some of the older models floating around do not. You want the peace of mind knowing that even if you forgot to turn off the iron this morning you're not going to start a fire.

Always empty the water from your iron while the iron is hot. This will reduce the moisture that remains in the water compartment. Doing this will also ensure you unplug the iron before leaving the house.

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