

# WETCLEANING

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## Khaki Pants

Whether you call them khakis, chinos, or Dockers®, this popular style of trousers has become a staple in casual and “business” causal dress for men, women, young and old. Their cotton fabric design makes wetcleaning an easy and obvious choice.

### STAIN REMOVAL

Wetside stain removal agents will be no different than those used for drycleaning. Tannin formulas, protein formulas and bleaches are all very effective when wetcleaning. An advantage of wetcleaning over drycleaning is the khakis can be cleaned while still wet. There is no need to dry them before cleaning. Any rings that were formed from wetside stain removal will be rinsed away in cleaning.

### REMOVING DRYSIDE STAINS

Specialized degreasing agents will be necessary for soils that fall into the dryside category such as oil, grease, paint, lipstick and ink. These agents are designed to break down oily and greasy stains and flush out completely in water. In general, dryside stains should be pre-treated with the special agent and then set aside for a period of 30 minutes or up to over night, depending on the severity of the stain. If oily-type stains are a frequent problem, it will be best to include the specialized degreaser as part of the wash formula. Consult with the detergent representative on setting up the wash formula or the quantity to use. Traditional, solvent-based dryside spotting chemicals such as POGs and oily-type paint removers cannot be used as they are not environmentally safe to be flushed into the water system.

Heavily soiled items should be pre-treated with a wetcleaning or neutral detergent or a degreaser then set aside so the stain removal agents can penetrate the stains.

### BLEACHING

Wetcleaning alone may not be sufficient to remove the final traces of many food and beverage stains such as coffee

or wine. In these instances, bleaching will be necessary.

Hydrogen peroxide at 3% concentration, sodium perborate, or sodium percarbonate are the safest bleaches to use in removing these stains but testing for colorfastness is still necessary. All can be used when either spot cleaning or when soaking in a bleach bath.

### Bleach Bath Procedure

1. Prepare the bleach bath in a non-metallic container by adding either:
  - 3% Hydrogen Peroxide* - 6 ounces per gallon of water at 100°F/38°C
  - Sodium Perborate* – 1 ounce per gallon of water at 120°F/49°C
  - Sodium Percarbonate* – 1 ounce per gallon of water at 100-120°F/38-49°C
2. Add 1 ounce of a wetcleaning or neutral detergent per gallon of water to the bleach solution.
3. Place the garment in the bath in an uncrowded condition so that the bleaching will be uniform. Be sure that all areas of the garments are immersed in the bath.
4. Allow the garment to remain in the bath until the stains have been removed. This usually requires from 30 minutes to several hours.
5. Rinse, extract and dry the khakis.

### WETCLEANING

Unlike delicate fibers such as wool or silk, cotton khakis can withstand a fair amount of agitation during the wash so the machine’s normal mechanical action setting is sufficient. Do not overload the machine and wash dark colors in a separate load.

The sizing applied to khakis in manufacturing is sometimes diminished after wetcleaning. Therefore, it is recommended to add sizing back during the final rinse. Sizing greatly improve the finishing time and quality.

Operation	Time	Water Temperature	Mechanical Action
Wash	10 Minutes	95 – 105 °F (29 – 32°C)	Normal Agitation
Drain	1 Minute		
Rinse 1	3 Minute	90°F (32°C)	Normal Agitation
Drain	1 Minute		
Rinse 2 <i>Add conditioner/sizing</i>	3 Minute	90°F (32°C)	Normal Agitation
Extract	3 Minutes		Medium to High Speed
Dry	Tumble dry on low heat -120°F (49°C)		

## DRYING

Generally khaki pants have machine wash and tumble dry instructions on the care label therefore completely drying is usually not an issue. However, they should be dried at a low temperature—120°F/49°C to minimize the possibility of shrinkage. It is important to tumble dry for at least a few minutes because the heat and tumbling of drying combined with the sizing and conditioners used in the rinse will aid in restoring khakis to their original look and feel. Taking the pants straight from the washer and hanging them to dry is not recommended for most items as it can leave hard wrinkles which will be difficult to remove in finishing. If shrinkage is a concern with certain items, partially tumble dry them first, then hang-dry the remainder. Most shrinkage occurs in the last stage of the drying process.

If you are equipped with a moisture control dryer, set the residual moisture level to leave 10 -12% moisture in those items where there is concern for shrinkage. A Residual Moisture Control dryer automatically stops the drying process when the sensor reaches the programmed moisture level to prevent garments from drying completely.

Do not overload the dryer. The drying will be slower and the khakis will be wrinkled.

## FINISHING

Finish the tops and legs of wetcleaned khakis the same as any other pair of pants. If the proper amount of sizing was used, the pants will have excellent body and hand. A tensioning topper is not required for finishing wetcleaned khakis, however, most items are more wrinkled after wetcleaning compared to drycleaning. The tugging effect of tensioning toppers will help remove wrinkles from the entire garment which aids in finishing as well as restoring slight shrinkage that may have occurred.

## SHRINKAGE

Even with the most careful of wetcleaning procedures, shrinkage can become an issue.

### *For shrinkage in the waistband:*

Dampen the pants either with water spray or run them through a rinse cycle and partially tumble dry.

Place the damp pants on an automatic topper and expand the waistband. Activate the air drying if the topper is equipped. Leave the pants in the expanded condition until completely dry. Depending on the pants this may take several minutes.

### *For shrinkage in the legs:*

To restore shrinkage in the legs, lay the damp pants on the press. Lightly steam one leg. Then, while holding the crotch area down securely with one hand, pull the



leg at the hem to restore the length. It may be necessary to pull the hem at the front edge, middle and back edge to maintain a straight hemline. While holding the legs in the stretched shape, apply the vacuum for 30 seconds. Repeat the procedure on the second leg. When both legs are done, allow the pants to completely dry.

**Note:** For best results, apply these procedures on damp garments. Wet fibers are more flexible than dry ones.