

Care & Washing of Fencing Gear

SAFETY FIRST You should NEVER do anything to compromise the safety that your gear or uniform provides!

Never use bleach on your whites – it will weaken the fibers that protect you.

Some Good Rules to Follow

- **Store and transport your fencing bag in a “comfortable environment” - a dry location with moderate temperatures.**
- **Use a fencing bag with 2 separate compartments.**
One compartment for weapons, masks and body cords – a moist environment will ruin both.
One compartment for sweaty items: shoes, socks, jacket, plastron, chest protector, knickers, glove, athletic wear (t-shirt / shorts)
Use PVC or Clear Plastic Tubing to prevent blades from coming in contact with “whites” if your bag has only 1 compartment. Note that the metal items will still show far more rust than with a two compartment bag.
- **Always fold or turn your whites inside out when you put them in your bag.**
If you do get a stain your uniform from other items in your bag it will be on the inside material, not the outside.
- **Be cautious of “Competition Stamps” that may bleed from a glove or mask onto other fencing whites.**
Don't place stamped gloves or masks on other fencing whites in your bag.
- **Don't use a mask as a storage place for gloves, used tee shirts and such. Leave it empty.**
- **Immediately remove whites from your bag when you get home and hang them up to dry out.**
- **Clean rust from your blade immediately! Don't fence with a rusty blade.**
Rust can weaken your blade and / or leave stains on your whites as well as the whites of those you fence. Do not risk damaging your whites or someone else's whites.

***** Always read and follow the Manufacturer's Washing Instructions first. *****

GLOVES should ***always be washed separately*** from the rest of your uniform! The dyes used for the leather in many of the gloves can bleed or run in the wash and will stain your fencing whites. Never wring or twist the glove – it may stretch it out of its original shape or fit. Always hang gloves to dry. Never put them in a dryer.

FENCING WHITES: JACKETS, KNICKERS, FENCING SOCKS, PLASTRONS, CHEST PROTECTORS

Jackets, knickers, socks, plastrons, chest protectors can all be washed together in your washing machine. Use mild laundry detergent and no liquid fabric softener. Zip the zippers and close the velcro on your fencing gear before washing.

If needed, use a non-bleach additive, such as **OXICLEAN White Revive**. **NEVER dry fencing whites in the dryer.**

ALWAYS hang items to air dry.

MASKS: Spot clean with a Damp Washcloth Soapy washcloth or soft brush & use a damp washcloth, water only, to “rinse” off any soap residue. Never use Clorox Wipes on your mask. Once or twice a year, you may find that you need to thoroughly clean your mask by handwashing the mask in a small dishpan or bucket with soapy water. Try to have the mask in the water for as short a time as possible. Immediately after rinsing the soap out, try to squeeze as much moisture out of the fabrics as possible. Set the mask out in the sun to dry, if possible use a fan to circulate air across the mask to speed the drying process. The goal here is to dry the mask as quickly as possible to prevent rusting.