



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS



IFHE Programme Committee  
Household Technology & Sustainability –  
the experts in household management

# Best Practice FAQs in Hand Laundering<sup>©</sup>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

**Question:** Why should I sort the laundry in light colours and dark colours, and in slightly soiled and heavily soiled items?

**Answer:** Loose colour particles from dark coloured fabrics tend to deposit on the light colour fabrics causing an unsightly gray colour. The colour in heavy soil can cause the same effect.

**Question:** Why should I pre-treat stains?

**Answer:** a) It is easy to see a stain on a dry item but it is difficult to see it once the fabric is wet.  
b) Pre-treatment of the stain breaks it up in smaller particles and partly lift it from the fabric and make it easier to remove from the fabric.

**Question:** Why is it important to dissolve the detergent before adding it to the water in the basin?

**Answer:** a) It is only effective when dissolved.  
b) It may cause white detergent spots on dark coloured items if not properly dissolved.

**Question:** Why should I use a detergent?

**Answer:** The detergent aid to loosen the soil from the fabric and keep it in suspension in the water, without detergent the soil tend to evenly distribute over the items in the basin.

**Question:** Is it necessary to pre-soak and pre-treat laundry?

**Answer:** It is not necessary to pre-soak or pre-treat slightly soiled items but in heavily soiled items it soften the soil and aid in dislodging it and thus making it easier to remove the soil without damaging the fabric.

**Question:** Why shouldn't I rub it?

**Answer:** Rubbing can cause damage to fabrics and some fibres are weaker when wet and will therefore damage even more easily with rubbing.

**Question:** Why should I squeeze out the water rather than wring it out?

**Answer:** The wringing cause wrinkles and can distort delicate fabric constructions.

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