Now you live by yourself, you are sadly going to have to do your own washing. No that does not mean you bring it home every fortnight to your parents to wash for you. I know that it is a pain and often feels like you need to set aside a whole day to do this boring task, but it is better to be clean than wonder why everyone on the tube has moved to the other side of the carriage. What follows is some washing wisdom to help you out!

**Stains**

Let’s start with one of the most likely ones: red wine. You are chilling with friends, losing your coordination a little bit, and whoops, there goes the bottle. What should you do?

- First, make sure other items of clothing are out of harm’s way. Then, get out the kitchen roll and soak up as much excess wine as you can.
- Next, keep it damp. You’ve probably heard the tip of soaking it in white wine, but unless you are in luxury student accommodation where wine flows out of taps, cool water will do. **DO NOT USE HOT WATER!**
- Then go back to the kitchen cupboard and get some salt to shake onto the damp fabric (the salt absorbs the wine and helps lift the stain, nifty I know)
- If you have access to a washing machine there and then, it is best to get the stain out as soon as possible. You can apply some pre-stain remover, or make your own with a bit of baking soda and water.
- Then wash as normal (preferably at 30 degrees or lower)
- Ta da! Your stain should now be removed. If that didn’t work, try the last two steps again. If it is still there, buy some clothes dye and make the whole item of clothing red to hide the stain - now call it fashion.

**Washing whites**

Everyone knows the story of the white shirt which was washed with the red jumper, and a new pink wardrobe ensued. Be careful. When you are loading the washing machine, put the items in one by one and shake out any large trousers which may have clothes trapped in them. Also, check all your pockets. Remove any tissues, pens and most importantly money!

If you don’t have many whites but need to do a wash, ask your flatmates if they have any and you can load the washing machine together so you are saving time and electricity.
Washing Symbols

It is sort of like learning Ancient Greek – all these weird symbols with no apparent meaning. Luckily though, I have made a simple phrasebook to help translate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Cotton Wash](image) | Cotton Wash (no bar underneath image)  
Maximum wash – the number within the washtub is the maximum wash temperature |
| ![Synthetics Wash](image) | Synthetics Wash / mild treatment  
(Single bar)  
Medium wash (mild washing conditions). |
| ![Wool Wash](image) | Wool Wash / very mild treatment  
(Double bar)  
Minimum wash (delicate washing conditions) |
| ![Hand Wash Only](image) | Hand Wash Only  
Do not machine wash. Wash by hand, maximum temperature 40°C, handle with care. |
| ![Not suitable for washing](image) | Not suitable for washing |
| ![Dry flat](image) | Dry flat  
Recommended for garments which are easily distorted by vertical drying. |
| ![Hang / Line dry](image) | Hang / Line dry  
For garments not distorted by vertical drying or where tumble drying is not recommended. |
| ![Drip dry](image) | Drip dry  
Recommended for garments which will withstand distortion and are generally synthetic in nature. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="May be tumble dried" /></td>
<td>May be tumble dried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Tumble dry low" /></td>
<td>Tumble dry low (low heat setting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Tumble dry high" /></td>
<td>Tumble dry high (high heat setting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Do not tumble dry" /></td>
<td>Do not tumble dry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ![Cool iron](image) | Cool iron (one dot)  
Maximum sole-plate temperature of 110°C, steam-ironing may be a risk |
| ![Warm iron](image) | Warm iron (two dots)  
Maximum sole-plate temperature of 150°C |
| ![Hot iron](image) | Hot iron (three dots)  
Maximum sole-plate temperature of 200°C |
| ![Do not iron](image) | Do not iron  
Steaming and steam treatments are not allowed |
| ![May be dry cleaned](image) | May be dry cleaned |
| ![May be dry cleaned](image) | May be dry cleaned (this letter tells the dry cleaner what process is required) |
| ![Do not dry clean or remove stains with solvents](image) | Do not dry clean or remove stains with solvents |

Taken from the Persil website: [www.persil.com/uk/laundry/laundry-tips/fabrics/wash-care-symbols.html](http://www.persil.com/uk/laundry/laundry-tips/fabrics/wash-care-symbols.html)

Hopefully those tips have washed away your fears and ironed out any doubts. But remember, if you are lucky enough to have a Gucci dress which costs more than your weekly rent, maybe it is safer in the hands of a dry cleaner.

Written by the Money Mentors on behalf of the Student Advice Service 13/09/17