

smock them, but as I pressed the transfer on the velvet came out shiny. Fortunately the smocking covered the shine, but the frocks have become a bit crumpled in the making and I wondered if you could tell me what to do, as I can't press them. I know there is something to do with steam—or is that to clean them? I hope you or some of the Daisy Chain can give me a few points on the treatment of it.

Mrs. M., Christchurch.

You are quite right—it is steam to use to take the creases out of velvet, and it will also remove the shine where the smocking transfer was pressed on. One simple way is to hang the frocks in the bathroom, so that the steam gets through them—but be careful not to splash them with water. However, bad creases need a little more concentrated treatment. Don't grasp the velvet too firmly, as it will re-crease. Have a kettle boiling, with a low heat under it. Then just hold the velvet over the spout, so that the steam goes from the wrong side of the velvet through to the right side. You'll see the creases disappear, and the pile come up beautifully. Give it a little shake, to get the steam out, and go on to the next bit. Be careful, of course, not to burn yourself on the steam, and not to have too high a flame under the kettle, or you may singe the frock.

Another way is to get someone to hold the hot iron, lay a wet cloth on top, and hold the velvet over that. But all three ways do steam the velvet, and you can choose which method you like. The dry cleaning firms also have special machinery for steaming velvet—which explains why they dye and clean velvet so well.

Care of Persian Cats

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I am writing to ask you something about a black Persian cat. She has her fur all matted together, and is eating it. Could you tell me in your paper a cure for it? It is coming out in handfuls. Thanking you very much.

Miss E.A.K.

Well, my advice to you is—consult the veterinary surgeon at the earliest moment. It is a common thing among Persian cats—the hair being so long takes a lot of hard work on Pussy's part to keep it perfect; and if she swallows the hair, it can form a "hair-ball" which can make the animal quite ill, and, if not attended to, can be fatal. The vet. will probably advise you what to do, and give pills to break up the hair-balls. In the meantime, you could perhaps assist pussy in her task, by brushing her hair gently each day.

Scorched Trousers

Dear Aunt Daisy,

I would be very grateful if you could give me some advice how to remove scorching from a pair of trousers. I was ironing them yesterday, and allowed the iron to get too hot. It is the only pair I have, the scorch mark is in the front, and I feel very worried. Thank you—I know you will help me.

"Old Bachelor Listener,"

Ponsonby.

Well, Bachelor, first let me suggest that when pressing trousers it is safest to put a sheet of newspaper over them. That not only protects them from scorch, but also supplies just enough moisture to put in a good crease. It is easier to use than a damp cloth, too.

Now for the scorch. This is a safe method—mix up some starch to a paste with a little cold water. Spread that over

the scorch mark, and put it outside for some hours. Then sponge it off with warm soapy water, then use clear water to rinse. When dry, press again, this time using the newspaper. Or you could moisten an old piece of cloth with peroxide—don't have it too wet, and have it moistened evenly. Lay that on to the scorch, and press with a medium hot iron. The marks should come off on to the cloth. Don't put the peroxide directly on to the trousers.

Or a fresh scorch often responds to immediate treatment with lemon juice or vinegar—and the job is usually finished by putting the garment in the sun for a little while.

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