

Caring for your Costumes

Students should not wear costumes at home or anywhere prior to dress rehearsals and performance.

These are costumes not clothing and may begin 'coming apart'. We recommend using fabric or other glue to re-attach ribbons and tulle, lace, other fabric or sequins that may become detached. Hobby Lobby, Michaels, & Wal-Mart all have fabric glue, & basic sewing items to fix or repair costumes.

Steam your costume to remove wrinkles - DON'T Use an Iron - **specialty fabrics will melt if an iron is applied, leaving burn marks.**

DON'T store a damp costume, or use plastic - **Store your costumes in a breathable container, like an old pillowcase.** Avoid plastic or nylon garment bags - these will trap odors, letting them fester and grow (pee-ew!).

Also, store away from sunlight to prevent fading.

Please do not wash costumes before the performance! Colors can bleed into each other and costumes can literally fall apart. Washing costumes is very risky. If you need to remove a stain, use the gentlest product possible and blot - don't scrub. Spot Clean - DON'T USE SHOUT. Gentle stain remover - combine one part Dawn dish soap with one part hydrogen peroxide. Always test the spot cleaner on a fabric scrap or hidden area of your costume first! It's better to test it once to see if it will damage your fabric. Apply to stain sparingly - let it sit on the stain for a couple minutes before blotting off with clear cool water.

Costumes should never be placed in a dryer.

After the performance, if you really must wash a costume, the safest way is to hand wash in cold water. Never Use Hot Water, Soak, or Wring --The best drying technique? First, blot excess water from your garment by using towels. Then hang to dry! Blotting the water may require using several towels. Make sure there isn't any water dripping from the garment - if there is, your colors could bleed! DON'T PUT COSTUMES IN A DRYER!