

Laundry

Jon is doing the laundry. His sister has a new knit top. It is white cotton and polyester with 5% Spandex.

Help Jon choose the load of laundry he should wash the top in. Which one has the most similar items and is safest for the knit?



1.

White cotton towel, white cotton tablecloth and napkins, white cotton bathroom curtain

Wash in regular cycle, with hot water, all-purpose laundry detergent with chlorine bleach, dryer set on regular (medium heat)

2.

Blue denim Western jacket, heavily soiled work jeans, blue bandanas

Wash in regular cycle with hot water, liquid laundry detergent and chlorine bleach, dryer set on high

3.

Pastel baby items with food stains, pink cotton pajamas, pale blue and yellow dress shirts

Wash on permanent press cycle, warm water, light duty liquid laundry detergent and oxygen bleach, dryer set on permanent press

4.

White lingerie, a white, washable silk blouse, white fleece baby blanket

Wash on delicate cycle, cold water, light duty laundry detergent, line dry

Ranking Order: 4 3 1 2

Cuts: 2 5 8

(Hormel scores, for online score calculations see:

<http://www.worldaccessnet.com/%7Enormans/hormel.html>)

4. Jon should wash the white knit top with the lingerie and silk blouse. All the items are white and will be washed in a safe laundry detergent, laundry cycle, and water temperature for the polyester/cotton/spandex knit top. He doesn't use the dryer so the top will not shrink or lose its shape.

3. The load with the pastel baby clothes, dress shirts, and cotton pajamas is the next best choice because this load will be washed much like the best choice. The only reasons he should not choose this load are that the items are pastel and the water temperature is warm to activate the oxygen bleach. The top could shrink some in the warm water and dryer if he forgets to take it out to dry it flat. However, the bleach is safe for spandex and the colors are pastels so they may not run.

1. The load of white towels, tablecloth and napkins, and white cotton curtains is similar in color to the top but the load will be washed in hot water with chlorine bleach. The top could shrink and the bleach could damage the spandex fibers. This is the next to worst choice.

2. The load of blue items would be the worst load to wash the top in. The top may not only shrink and be damaged by the bleach and hot water and dryer but the white fabric could pick up blue dye from denim and bandanas or become soiled from oil and grease in the soiled garments. It would be more gray and dingy than if it were washed with the pastel clothing.

