

# BM!S' Guide on How to Keep your Suit Clean!

## Step 1: Before Cleaning

Before any type of cleaning or maintenance, PLEASE take the time to cover up the eyes with plastic wrap or any kind of covering to make sure no chemicals or cleaners come in contact with them. Water is okay, but soap will fade them out!

Some important things to start with! Remember suits work like clothing and can be stained and worn out over time.

Try to brush your costume before and after wears. This prevents matting and looks great! Friction areas like under the arms need it the most. Slicker Brush or bristle brush is recommended.

Avoid mud and grass. These can stain and be tough to clean out.

After wears spray with clothing/fabric safe disinfectant. I suggest a 40/60 isopropyl alcohol 70% and water mix in a spray form for convention disinfectant. You can even add a couple drops of fragrance oil to make your suit smell nice! Febreze or Lysol is NOT RECOMMENDED.

Do NOT use chemicals made for hard surfaces. This can cause damage to you and your costume over time.

I highly recommend wearing lycra/spandex under garments underneath. This will help stay cool and keep sweaty oils off your costume. Under Armour is an excellent choice.

I recommend wearing lycra balaclava/head caps under the head to help keep hair and face oils out of your fursuit head.

Try not to crush your costume head while traveling, light pressure is fine.

Avoid using your hands to open push doors and railing. Try using your elbows. This is the #1 cause of worn out hands paws and can spread germs!

Avoid food or drinks that are not water.

While traveling, avoid storing your costume in hot areas. This can loosen glued items and cause disfigurement. Cool, low humidity places are the best.

## Step 2: Washing

There different ways to washing each part of your costume! These are my personal favorites.

How often you wash your suit varies on you. 2-3 wears or after a busy event is the best time to wash. If you're a heavy sweater more often is best, less than the sweaty type you can wait longer. Bodysuits, handpaws, feetpaws and tails can be thrown in the washing machine, but heads need to be soaked in the tub.

Body:

You can tub soak or machine wash.

Use a delicate fabric detergent. Woolite is perfect and smells good.

TUB WASH: Soak body inside out. Press and squeeze every 10 mins or so to get dirt and oils out. Wring out excess water, pull right side out after, brush, and let air dry. Do **NOT** hang the bodysuit while it is full of water. This will stretch out the suit to no repair!

MACHINE WASH (recommended): If you trust your machine. **DO NOT PUT IN TOP LOADING MACHINE WITH AN AGITATOR IN THE MIDDLE.** If the top loader does not have the agitator (the big plastic thing in the center) it will be fine. Pull body inside out. If you can't pull it fully inside out because of attached tails or paws, put the suit in a laundry bag. Cold setting, delicate or hand wash setting.

Pull right side out after, brush, and let air dry with fans. (OR if you have a dryer with the cold air setting or air fluff mode, you can use that. Just **NO HEAT!**)

Head:

If your fursuit really needs it, submersion of the head is okay. Just be sure to cover the eyes accordingly, with plastic wrap and paper towels.

After each use spray the inside with a fabric safe disinfectant.

Wash the face with a damp rag or lightly run under water if you get a dirty spot. I like to use a spot of woolite and a toothbrush for those little stains.

Avoid costume eyes.

Brush it out and let it dry preferably with a fan blowing into the neck out the eyes.

Hands:

You can tub soak or machine wash.

Use a delicate fabric detergent. Woolite is great and smells good.

TUB WASH: Soak with body. Press and squeeze every 10 mins or so to get dirt and oils out. Wring out excess water, pull right side out, brush, and let air dry.

MACHINE WASH: Same goes as bodysuit. Wash with body. Cold setting, delicate or hand wash setting.

Feet:

Can be tossed in the washing machine if needed. Same as the rest, cold setting, delicate or hand wash setting. Woolite detergent is recommended.

For spot washing or tub washing, lather with woolite and cool water. Brush when finished, let air dry with a fan blowing on them.

Make sure to give shoes that **DO NOT BLEED WHEN WET** if shoes are provided. This has happened in the past. Typically black or blue shoes.

Tail:

Tails shouldn't have to be washed often as the rest of the costume.

Spot wash, can be machine washed like the rest of the suit but make sure it gets dry completely.

### Step 3: Drying

**#1 DO NOT Place in dryer UNLESS you have a cold air/air fluff setting. Heat will melt your fur!!**

This will damage your costume! CANNOT be fixed.

Leave your costume parts out in a dry open area with a fan.

Wring out that excess water before setting out to dry. Towel pat it if needed.

Brush out fur as it dries. Every 30 mins or so helps.

### Step 4: Storing

Storing your costume is just as important as keeping it clean!

Dry, room temperature area.

Store body in a closet or area where fur fibers will not get bent kinked. This can make a costume permanently wrinkled.

Place head on a shelf in a closet or open area where it will not be crushed.

Usually I place the hands inside of the head so they will not get lost.

Tail can be hung up with body.

Feet are best stored below a hanging body or where you would place shoes.

### Step 5: Repair & Wear

Your costume is just like clothing. It will wear out. This is normal.

If you're rough on your costume like doing activities like dancing and sports you're prone to friction matting and holes. This isn't a quality problem, but just normal wear.

Costumes with lots of markings like stripes and spots will be more prone to holes and tears. Not a problem. I can repair them or I can show you how to. Please do not be scared to reach out to me!

Anything else you're concerned about, contact me!

