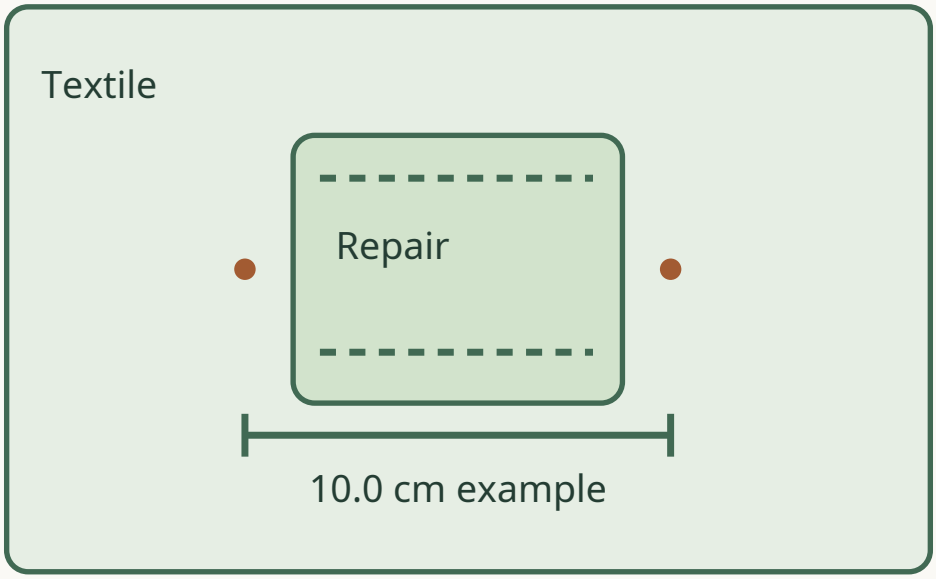
Test a Repair Through a Gentle Wash Cycle

Record an ordinary permitted wash, compare prewash and postwash condition, and stop when new damage appears.

Dry baseline: keep endpoints and light consistent



Place ruler beside the item; do not stretch it

What is inside

14 step-by-step instructions, two original diagrams and two printable observation records.

Scope boundary

A permitted single wash is an observation, not a prediction or certification of durability.

Before you start

Suitable items and exclusions

For cleanly finished everyday non-technical adult clothing or household textiles with an ordinary repair and a legible care label that permits the proposed wash. A gentle cycle is not universally safe. Do not machine-wash dry-clean-only, hand-wash-only or unknown-care items, delicate unstable dyes, water-sensitive repairs, protective or medical textiles, or items with electrical parts. No publisher physical test, durability certification or wash-performance claim is made.

Materials and tools

Repaired item, care instructions for original fabric and repair material, camera or paper sketch, ruler, inspection light, approved detergent, appropriate washing equipment, suitable drying method and optional laundry bag only when allowed.

Plan the intervention

Work from the actual item

Follow the strictest compatible care instructions for the original and repair. If care is unknown or conflicting, stop and seek advice. Record the dry prewash condition, relevant reference measurements and any existing puckering or loose threads. Use the permitted wash method and only a gentle machine cycle if allowed. Dry as directed, inspect after the item is completely dry and compare with the baseline. Record actual observed change, not a pass claim about future durability.

Before committing

A permitted single wash is an observation, not a prediction or certification of durability.

Steps 01–02

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

01 Read the care information

Check garment label, repair cloth, thread and any adhesive instructions. If they conflict or cannot be established, do not conduct a wash under this guide.

02 Confirm the repair is finished

Inspect both sides for loose pins, needles, clips, temporary basting, unfinished edges or uncured products. Remove tools and follow any curing instructions; do not wash an incomplete repair.

Steps 03–04

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

03 Check for exclusions

Do not machine-wash a hand-wash-only or dry-clean-only item, water-sensitive textile or unknown-care item. Refer for the appropriate care route.

04 Set a dry baseline

Lay the fully dry item in its relaxed shape under good light. Record existing damage, loose threads, edge condition, fabric distortion and colour.

Steps 05–06

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

05 Photograph or sketch the repair

Include a ruler beside, not over, the repair if useful. Use consistent light and camera position. Label the image before washing and record its reference name.

06 Measure reference dimensions

Choose repeatable landmarks and measure without stretching. Record units and positions. If a repaired seam is 10.0 cm before washing, use the same endpoints afterward; changes are observations, not ratings.

Steps 07–08

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

07 Choose the permitted care route

A machine gentle cycle is suitable only if original and repair instructions allow it. Set water temperature, spin and detergent according to the strictest compatible instructions; do not invent a universal setting.

08 Prepare the load

Follow permitted closure and sorting instructions. Avoid incompatible colours and abrasive or heavy companion items. Use a laundry bag only when suitable and allowed; never rely on it to override the care label.

Steps 09–10

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

09 Run ordinary permitted care

Use the chosen setting without adding a stress challenge, stronger detergent or repeat cycles to prove durability. Record actual settings and any deviation.

10 Handle the wet item carefully

Support the wet textile without tugging at the repair. If new damage is visible, stop manipulating it and follow appropriate care advice.

Steps 11–12

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

11 Dry as instructed

Use the allowed drying method. Do not use high heat, stretch the repair flat or iron it to conceal distortion. Wait until fully dry before measuring.

12 Inspect both faces again

Compare under baseline lighting. Check edge lift, new gaps, loose stitching, dye transfer, puckering and damage. Photograph or sketch the same area.

Steps 13–14

Work off the body unless the instruction expressly calls for a pin-free observation.

13 Record actual changes

Repeat the original reference measurements without stretching. Compute after minus before, noting uncertainty and units. Example: 9.8 - 10.0 = -0.2 cm; no universal acceptable threshold is assumed.

14 Decide the follow-up

Retain for ordinary intended use only if observations and care are satisfactory. Stop and seek suitable repair if new damage appears. A single cycle does not predict future durability; record date and next inspection.

Fix, care and reassess

Care instructions disagree

Do not choose the harsher method or assume gentle solves the conflict. Ask the manufacturer or a textile specialist.

New stitches loosen

Stop using the item until assessed; do not pull the loose thread or run another wash to confirm.

The patch puckers

Compare only when fully dry. Do not stretch, press or heat it unless care instructions permit; assess the cause.

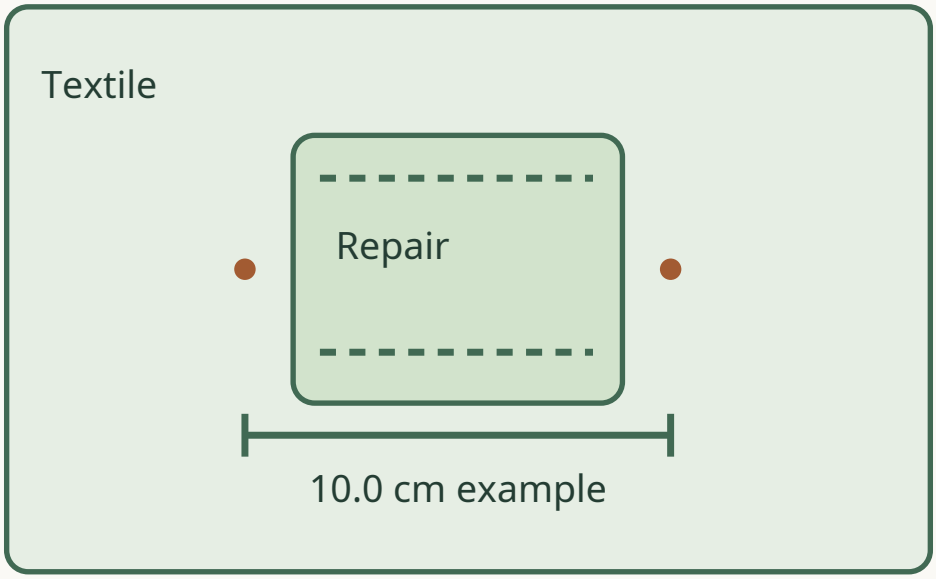
Colour changes or transfers

Stop the trial and follow fabric-specific care advice. Record the observation without claiming a cause.

Placement and comparison

Baseline photo map: mark two repeatable endpoints beside the repair and keep camera position, light and ruler comparable.

Dry baseline: keep endpoints and light consistent



Place ruler beside the item; do not stretch it

Use the diagram as a schematic

Illustrative only; the actual item and its construction determine the repair. Do not use the diagram as a scale template.

Decision checkpoint

A permitted single wash is an observation, not a prediction or certification of durability.

Construction and decision

Postwash inspection chart: compare the same dry landmarks, record observed change, and choose retain, reassess or refer.

Before (fully dry)	10.0 cm
After (fully dry)	9.8 cm
Difference (after - before)	-0.2 cm
Edges / threads / colour	Record observations
Decision	Retain / reassess / refer

Illustrative measurements only; no pass threshold.

Use the diagram as a schematic

Illustrative only; the actual item and its construction determine the repair. Do not use the diagram as a scale template.

Decision checkpoint

A permitted single wash is an observation, not a prediction or certification of durability.

Prewash condition and care record

Write actual observations. Mark unknown details UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. Use additional paper if needed.

Item / repair materials / care instructions

Compatible allowed wash method

Prewash image or sketch reference

Reference endpoints / unit / measurement

Existing edges / stitches / colour / shape

All tools removed / repair complete?

Planned cycle / temperature / detergent / drying

Postwash comparison chart

Write actual observations. Mark unknown details UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED. Use additional paper if needed.

Actual care settings / deviations

Fully dry? / postwash image reference

Same endpoints: before / after / difference

Edges / stitches / opening change

Colour / puckering / new damage

Decision: retain / reassess / refer

Date / next observation

Keep an honest repair record

Originality and limits

Original Steadleaf English prose and vector diagrams. Follow the actual item, material and tool instructions. No physical repair, wash, load, durability, strength or compatibility trials were performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult non-technical textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Follow-up

Use the two records to document what you actually observed, not what you expect to happen. If the item becomes unsuitable, stop use and seek appropriate advice or replacement.

Decision checkpoint

A permitted single wash is an observation, not a prediction or certification of durability.