



Danica Patrick
ON TRAIL

Luxe Care

Insider tips on properly cleaning what's in your closet

BY TEGAN DONNELLEY



DAVIS IMPERIAL CLEANERS isn't your average corner dry cleaner. Like you, it believes your most coveted couture deserves more than a little TLC. At Davis a technician (aptly called a couture fabricare specialist) gives each garment—whether it's a basic shirtdress or a museum-quality piece—a comprehensive inspection and analysis. And he or she doesn't miss a thing: A specialist can spend several hours on one item. While prices aren't cheap, the initial garment analysis and price quote are complimentary. Here, co-owner Lynda Wood explains the special care needed to keep your favorite fashions in tip-top shape. 3325 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., 866-267-4560; davisimperial.com

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Nanette Laporte bouclé jacket



Giugno canvas bag



St. John knit blazer



Carolina Herrera gown



Hermès scarves



KNITWEAR
Knits are vulnerable to stretching or becoming misshapen in the dry-cleaning process. A technique called blocking guarantees that the shape of a knit is preserved: After the initial dimensions are measured and recorded, the knit is steam-cleaned and blocked to its original measurements.

MIXED-MATERIAL BAGS
When canvas, leather and metal hardware adorn a canvas bag, a one-size-fits-all cleaning approach won't work. At Davis, different techniques and chemicals are used on each material to safeguard against dye bleeding.

SILK GOWNS
Chances are your favorite silk party frock is studded with invisible white-wine stains. Wood uses a full-spectrum light analysis on the piece to target and treat each stain so it doesn't become permanent.

ANIMAL-SKIN BAGS
The pearly finish of a reptile skin may make for a lust-worthy bag, but it's all too easily damaged in the cleaning process. Hand care and an appropriate cleaning solution will maintain the original fabulous finish.

SCARVES
The hand-sewn edges of a scarf should never, ever be ironed flat. At Davis, scarves are hand-pressed, then the edges softly rolled.

BOUCLÉ JACKETS
The loose thread within the bouclé yarn, which gives these garments their nubby texture, can easily unravel, making them "as fragile as they are beautiful," says Wood. Proper cleaning will prevent damage to the fabric and protect pearl or bead embellishments. Davis also makes sure to dry bouclé at a precise temperature to avoid shrinkage.