

Sidestep winter wardrobe woes



Tired of staticky blouses, salt-stained boots or stretched sweaters? Our experts share the easy fixes that'll make your cold-weather favorites look brand-new

Nix shoulder bumps with ice cubes

You recently pulled out a few sweaters that had been hanging in the back of your closet, only to find they've taken on the shape of the hangers they were on, leaving awkward bumps in the shoulders.



To reshape them, professional organizer Susan Santoro (Organized31.com) suggests reaching for an ice cube! Simply put on the sweater, rub an ice cube over the bumps several times, then let dry fully. The wet fibers will shrink back to normal on your shoulders as they dry, smoothing out any imperfections.

Banish static with metal

Dry winter air creates a charge that makes clothes cling to your body. To nix it stat, reach for a safety pin and attach it to the inside of your skirt, blouse or pants! The metal pin diverts the electricity that builds up on clothes, leaving them cling-free. No safety pin? Grab a metal hanger and rub it over your clothes to diffuse the static charge in the same way. Also smart: When drying clothes, blogger Jennifer Lifford (CleanAndScentsible.com), advises using dryer balls (like Handy Laundry Wool Dryer Balls, Amazon.com). They absorb and release humidity to prevent static from forming during the dry cycle.



Remove pills with a razor

If your favorite sweater or cozy jacket is full of pesky little fuzz balls after a few washes or wears, lift them quickly with the swipe of a shaving razor, advises Lifford. "Just be sure to use a sharp razor and pull the fabric taut to prevent cutting through the garment, then use short, small strokes with a gentle hand to remove the pills," she says. To prevent pills from forming again, she advises washing sweaters (machine-washable kinds only) inside out on the delicate cycle, then air-drying them flat.



Clean salt-stained snow boots with a vinegar swipe

Road salt leaving an unsightly white film on your snow boots? As soon as you notice new stains, mix ¼ cup each of white vinegar and water, dip a white washcloth into the mix (to avoid color transfer onto boots), then swipe it on stains, says Santoro. The acids in the vinegar break down the salt quickly to restore boots to like-new!

Lift dirt off suede with a pencil eraser

"Due to its porous nature, suede can soak up dirt stains easily," says Lifford. But before shelling out to get a suede bag, coat or booties professionally cleaned, try a clean pencil eraser! "It's perfect for spot treating and gently buffing out smaller stains," she explains. Just rub the eraser over spots until clean, then fluff up the area with a clean, dry toothbrush. *Voilà!*

