



## RINSING IN FABRIC SOFTENER (OPTIONAL)

Rinsing removes any excess ink, pre-shrinks the fabric and restores the fabric's soft, natural hand.

If you are making items that will never be washed or get wet, you do not need to rinse the fabric. Also, with many kinds of printer inks, you can skip the rinse step and use your printed fabric right away. However, it's safest to assume that whatever you create with your fabric will someday be washed or possibly get wet, maybe even years later when you hand it down to someone you love.

1. Select a container that is large enough to lay the fabric out flat in. The container can be made of plastic, metal or glass.
2. Prepare a rinse solution by mixing liquid fabric softener into cool tap water. Use 4 tablespoons of fabric softener for each cup of water. Snuggle® works well. Do not use Downy® or softeners with special additives. The solution can be reused until its color changes.
3. Drop the fabric face-down in the rinse solution. Place it in all at once. If it floats, push it down with your fingers.
4. Gently swish the fabric in place for about 15 seconds. Hold the fabric by two corners and swish it to push away any ink that is floating in the water, and then lift the fabric out of the rinse solution. Make sure that the fabric does not fold back on itself.
5. Place the fabric face down on a towel.
6. Fold part of the towel over on the fabric and blot it to remove excess moisture. Open the towel right away. If you see a ghost of the image, don't worry—it is merely excess ink.
7. Lay the fabric face-up on a flat, clean surface to dry. You can use a hair dryer to speed up the drying.

Including fabric softener in the rinse water helps prevent excess ink from redepositing on your fabric, which is also called backstaining. Because after rinsing, excess ink has been removed, the ink in your fabric image won't bleed, even if that particular kind of ink is susceptible to bleeding.

To test if your printer ink will bleed, wet a piece of printed fabric in water without fabric softener, and then lay the fabric out to dry. If you do not see any bleeding, you probably do not need to rinse your fabric prints in fabric softener before using them.

## **(Rinsing in Fabric Softener-continued)**

If you happen to have bad bleeding problems, work with just one sheet at a time and dry the fabric right away with a hair dryer to give the ink less time to bleed.

If you notice that some ink rubs off on your hands when you handle the fabric, you have applied more ink than the fabric can absorb. This can happen especially when part of your print is very bright or very black. Your printer accomplishes this by laying down a whole lot of ink in one spot. Rinsing will remove the excess ink.

Even if you don't need to rinse your fabric in fabric softener to prevent bleeding, you still might want to rinse your printed fabric to preshrink it before sewing.

Because different fabrics will shrink by different amounts, you should preshrink your printed THREADS fabrics and any other fabrics that you will use in your project. Just wet the fabric and dry it. (Don't wash it.)