



# The Fur Collective

## Cleaning Your Fursuit



### Mask

Remember that for you to look and feel your best in your mask you need to clean it and keep it in a good environment. Luckily, care and cleaning of a fursuit mask is easy!

### General Care

- Keep your mask at room temperature to prevent any warping from heat
- Keep your mask in a dry place
- It's recommended that you wear a balaclava mask inside your fursuit mask to keep sweat from directly soaking into the mask
- You can place a dryer sheet inside the mask after use to keep the mask smelling fresh
- DO NOT vigorously scrub your mask's whiskers.
- Oxyclean can be used to clean the outside of the fursuit mask. (For Spot-Cleaning)
- If your mask has airbrushing DO NOT scrub it because the paint job will fade
- When you're finished cleaning your mask, brush the fur back into the position you want while it is still wet so it doesn't dry matted and raggedy
- When you're ready to go out wearing your mask, you may need some light brushing with a slick brush or a comb
- Cleaning solutions for the interior of the mask can be made from equal parts distilled water and isopropyl alcohol. Add essential oils for a fragrant smell
- Masks with electrical wiring CANNOT be submerged in water. This includes LEDs and fans
- Masks with metal CANNOT be submerged in water. This includes poseable and floppy ears, as well as antlers and horns
- Avoid brushing any areas made of felt or fleece. These areas are typically the tongue, teeth and eyebrows. Sometimes the inner ear and nose. Soft antlers and horns are also made from fleece
- Accessories may need to be removed prior to cleaning. This includes piercings
- Masks with attachable antlers and horns have a small metal skullcap under the fur. Do not get this area wet to avoid rust



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### Foam Masks

- Avoid scrubbing toony eyes, as the paint job could chip or fade
- Avoid poking or prodding the 'whites' of a toony mask's eyes, they could become punctured or scratched
- Foam-based masks usually only need a spot-cleaning and to be sprayed inside with a human-safe cleaning solution
- Foam-based masks can be soaked in a tub with sensitive-skin non-aromatic laundry detergent for really bad cases of stink or in the rare case of mold. Once finished make sure to squeeze out excess water and allow it to sit in a dry place for a few days
- Avoid fabric softener.
- Foam masks made after June 2016 have been tested to survive a washing machine. Only use a front-load washer on delicate, no heat, and low tumble. This should only be done if the mask is suffering from a serious case of mold. This WILL cause fading in airbrush details
- Foam masks are most susceptible to mold. Allow them to rest in a dry place after use, and after washing. Do not wear a mask if it is still wet after washing
- Masks with attachable antlers and horns are handwash ONLY to avoid the attachment area from getting wet

### Resin Masks

- Resin-based masks have hard edges, and should not be used as a toy, nor for roughhousing in. This could result in damage to the mask or injury.
- After prolonged use of a Resin mask you can wipe the inside down with a damp cloth. If you do have a fan DO NOT get the fan assembly wet (wires, fan, battery).
- ONLY handwash a resin-based mask
- DO NOT put your mask in your washing machine or dryer. You could damage the base and mechanics of a resin mask which allow it to move. Always avoid heat!
- You can rub mechanical oil on a mask's realistic style eyes to give them a shinier look
- Resin-based masks should not be submerged in water ever
- Tape or water can be used on silicone elements to remove dust and fur
- GoldBond powder can be dusted onto silicone elements to make them less 'grippy'. Do not breathe in GoldBond powder
- Avoid pushing on plastic and silicone features
- Plastic jawsets can be painted if scuffs or spots appear



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### Fursuit Parts

Maintaining cleanliness is very important to the look, feel and longevity of your new fursuit parts. Luckily, it is not very difficult but may be time consuming. Make sure that you have your fursuit washed at least a few days before a planned outing to allow for parts to dry. Also, it is usually best to wash your fursuit or parts after attending any conventions- the material clings to germs and any con-crud that may have spread.

### Antlers and Horns

- 'Soft' antlers and horns means that they are built off of dense foam and are covered with fleece or fabric. Otherwise, they are plastic.
- Soft antlers and horns should only be spot-treated. Avoid the subtle airbrushing, and only use a soft 'patting' or 'daubing' motion to avoid making the fleece pill or fray.
- Do not submerge soft antlers or horns.
- Plastic antlers and horns can be scrubbed with soapy water.
- Plastic pieces should avoid heat to prevent melting.
- If a plastic horn gets scuffed, you can use acrylic paint to make touch-ups.

### Tail

- Tails are super easy. Spot clean them when they get a few dirty spots
- If the whole tail needs help, put it through the washing machine in a pillowcase, tied shut with an elastic band. Wash on delicate, with unscented detergent that has no softeners
- The tail may need to be wrung out after washing. Squeeze excess water out, but don't stretch your tail! It may warp! Make sure to brush it thoroughly- areas that touch the ground or your butt may need extra brushing
- Wire-core tails cannot be put through a washing machine, and cannot be fully submerged in water. This could cause the metal core to rust and destroy the tail
- Tails with LEDs should not be submerged. Avoid getting the battery pack wet
- **NEVER** put your tail in the dryer. Just stay away from dryers!



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### Handpaws Feetpaws and Arm Sleeves

- When storing your hands, it is nice to keep them inside your mask. They won't get lost, or get too hot. If you have plastic claws, silicone pawpads or dense foam pieces, they will warp in extreme heat! Do not leave them in the sun, or a vehicle for too long
- Keep costume parts in a dry place
- Acrylic paint can be used to fix small scuffs in plastic claws and dense foam hooves
- In the event of a lost plastic claw, contact TheFurCollective to know where to find a replacement. Most claws are ordered from DreamVision Creations
- Plastic claws that pop off can be re-attached with super glue
- Handpaws, armsleeves and specifically canine/feline feetpaws can be put into a washing machine. Make sure to put them inside of a pillowcase, and that it is sealed with a hair-band, rubber band, etc. This helps keep your handpaws soft and unwrinkled. *DO NOT ADD HEAT*, and put the power to 'delicate'. *NEVER* use soap that is scented, *NEVER* use soap that has fabric softener! Scents are made from chemicals which may be harsh on the fabric backing, and fabric softener may make your pieces feel greasy!
- Feetpaws that cannot be put into a washing machine are lizard, avian, hoofed, and rodent. These feet should be spot-cleaned to avoid damage to the prominent claws or dense foam hooves.
- Heavily airbrushed pieces can be put into a washing machine, but the airbrush will eventually fade. For the longest life of the paint job, soak the pieces in a tub with unscented, non-softening detergent and occasionally gently scrub. Squeeze excess water out of pieces after about 2 hours and allow to dry completely before wearing them
- If there are poseable aspects or electrical wiring do not submerge the piece in water
- For stains, a good by-hand scrub and spot-cleaning can do the trick for paws and sleeves
- *NEVER* put fursuit pieces in the dryer! Allow them to sit out in a dry place. Brush your paws and sleeves with a comb while they are wet to keep the fur direction consistent and non-matted
- Dryer sheets can be put into fursuit parts to help keep them smelling fresh as a short-term solution. This is nice when attending conventions, where you cannot wash your suit!



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### Bodysuit

The bodysuit is the most important part of the fursuit to keep clean and well maintained! Cleaning the bodysuit can be time-intensive; make sure you wash your bodysuit days ahead of planned outings. It is best to wash your bodysuit immediately after long or strenuous expeditions to ensure your bodysuit has a long and happy lifespan.

## Washing and Maintenance

- First, fill a tub with lukewarm (NEVER hot!) water. Have a slicking brush on-hand for easing out wrinkles and matting on areas of the suit which rub (thighs, butt, knees and armpits.) Also have a laundry basket prepared to transport your bodysuit to the washing machine (It will become very heavy!) For a regular washing, typically just a bit of Oxyclean or laundry detergent (non-softening/no scents) is needed.
- Turn your bodysuit inside-out. If you have deep-set stains, now is the time to apply Folex straight to them and scrub them out! Folex works best when it has had the chance to set into the stain for a few minutes. Afterwards, lay your suit out into the tub so that it is not bunched and submerge it. Let it soak for a while, up to an hour, periodically making sure that the suit is getting an adequate amount of soap.
- If you have matting, turn your suit right-side out and begin working at the matting slowly with the slicking brush. Gently work at the matting in the direction of the fur to avoid pulling out clumps of fur (it will never grow back!) This may take a while, have patience.
- Drain the tub and squish out as much liquid as possible, the bodysuit is heavy when waterlogged! Do not wring the material out forcefully in a way that may stretch it! If you turned the suit right-side out, turn it back inside-out before loading it into the washing machine. Set your machine to gentle and cold. Add laundry detergent if the suit still seems dirty.
- Once the washing machine has finished, your suit should be mostly wrung out. Turn your suit right-side out. If your suit is very heavy still, do not hang it up to dry (It will stretch the shoulders) instead lay it somewhere dry (avoid direct sunlight.) It is very important that you brush out your entire suit several times and during different stages of dryness in order for the fur to stay soft and unwrinkled.
- Fursuits are almost always made from faux fur, which is made of plastic fibers. This means that bleach should not harm the colors of your suit! If you are unsure of the materials of your suit, ask your maker. At this time, TheFurCollective has only used plastic-based faux furs.
- If you have digitigrade padding, put the padding together in a pillowcase and tie it closed. The padding should be washed on gentle, with cold water. The padding may be put into your dryer, on the very lowest heat setting (no heat if possible).
- If your bodysuit has airbrushing, for the longevity of the paint job, skip the washing machine step. When brushing out the suit, very gently comb through the airbrush areas.
- Remember, NEVER mix bleach and ammonia!



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### Extra Information

#### Recommended Products

- Folex
- OxyClean carpet stain remover
- 'All' brand washer detergent for 'sensitive skin' (Contains no softeners, dyes, or scents)
- Dryer Sheets (as a short term solution for stink)
- SpotBot carpet machine (for really bad cases)
- Grease-fighting Dish Soap (avoid scents)

#### Natural Disinfectant Solution

This solution is great for quick and easy cleaning; a must-have for conventions!

- Measure out 1:1 isopropyl alcohol and distilled water in a small spray bottle
- Slowly add 'essential' oils (not fragrance oils!) one drop at a time until fragrant
- Shake to mix
- Spray inside masks, paws or bodysuit for disinfecting and to get rid of any nasty smelling funk!
- This is great for conventions and short outings, but does not replace a good bath! Always wash your fursuit after sweaty expeditions!

#### Notes

- Make sure to read a specific product's information before applying it to your fursuit
- Only the hand tool of a SpotBot should ever be used on your fursuit
- Dryer sheets can be stored in fursuit parts for maintaining a fresh smell, but do this sparingly
- Do Not spray any part of your fursuit with Lysol or Febreze, eventually they disintegrate the material
- Never Apply Heat to Anything (lukewarm is okay)
- Never use any fragrance except for essential oils or other natural products



## Thank You and Happy Cleaning!

If you have any questions or concerns, contact us at [thefurcollective@gmail.com](mailto:thefurcollective@gmail.com)