

# Look Sharp and Classic: A Guide on How to Iron Pants

One of the foundations of classic dressing—regardless of what you're actually wearing—is ensuring that you look clean, neat, and well-tailored at all times. In theory, if you don't know how to iron pants and shirts, it's better to wear a smooth, well-fitted, freshly laundered knit top and jeans than to wear a baggy dress shirt and wrinkled trousers.

Of course, after reading this tutorial, you'll never have to make that decision! If you want to look sharp, you must take the time to learn how to iron pants well. Creases in the wrong places look sloppy, while creases in the right places make you look savvy.

## General Ironing Tips

So, before you find out how to iron pants, how do you even know if you *need* to iron your pants? Here's an easy tip to follow: When in doubt, iron. Unless you're going to wear jeans or corduroys, you should iron your trousers, whether they're dress pants or chinos.

Even though chinos are classified as casual pants, there's a distinct difference between *casual* and *careless*. Just as wool dress slacks shouldn't have wrinkles, neither should any cotton twill trousers.

If you don't launder your pants after every wear, you should still give them a touch-up with your iron—after letting them air out—before you put them on again. Ironing will restore a fresh, crisp look to your trousers.

When it comes to how to iron pants, the technique for most pants is basically the same. Keep in mind that the waistband of pleated pants should be folded where the pleats begin, and not necessarily where the belt loops are.

## Watch The "How to Iron Pants and Dress Pants" Video Tutorial

Simply [CLICK HERE](#) to view the explanatory video tutorial in full HD.

# How to Iron Pants



You will need:

- a clothes hanger for the freshly pressed trousers
- three 1-1/2" binder clips to hold the trousers in place while ironing
- a kitchen towel
- a steam iron, on the Cotton setting, with Full Steam selected.

## STEP 1



Fold the waistband on either side of the fly, at the first belt loop, and use a binder clip to hold the folds together. Place the rest of the trousers flat on the ironing board, with the legs precisely on top of each other. Attach two binder clips to the hems to hold the trouser legs in place.

## STEP 2.



Use your hands to smooth all pocket linings inside the trousers.

## STEP 3.



Cover the lower part of the trousers with the kitchen towel, and make sure it lies flat, with no creases or wrinkles. The towel prevents the trouser fabric from becoming shiny, which is often a problem when ironing trousers.

Iron each crease for approximately 10 seconds while applying steady pressure.

## STEP 4.



Next, you will shift the towel to the upper section of the trousers and smooth out any creases and wrinkles.

Again, apply pressure and iron each crease for approximately 10 seconds.

## STEP 5.



Remove the kitchen towel, and give the trousers a light steam without applying any pressure. Flip the trousers around by grabbing the front binder clips, making sure they lie flat on the ironing board once again.

Before ironing the other side, soak the towel in water and wring it out until it is damp. Repeat steps 2-5.

When you're done ironing, simply remove the binder clips and slip the trousers over a clothes hanger while they're still lying on the ironing board.



Be sure turn off your steam iron when you're finished.

And that's how to iron pants! Pretty cool, right? It's really not as hard as it seems, and it gets much easier with a little practice. Once you've developed more pride in your appearance by wearing neatly ironed clothing, your confidence and motivation will build.

One thing to watch for when ironing is 'glossing'. This occurs when the fibres in the fabric become compressed, particularly under intense heat. Certain materials, such as gabardine and serge, are more prone to glossing than other types. Our tips on how to iron pants will reduce glossing, because ironing correctly and efficiently means less time with the iron on the fabric.

## **Choosing a Steam Iron**

Just as important as how to iron pants is what you use to get the job done. The type of iron you use can make a huge difference in the results you get. Always choose an iron that gives you the option of applying steam. A steam iron is more efficient at getting out tough wrinkles, because the moisture relaxes the fibres.

Look for a relatively generous water tank, so you won't have to stop and refill the iron during your session. Also, be sure that the power cord is long enough to allow you to move around the ironing board as much as you need to. And many irons come with an auto shut-off feature for safety. Think of a steam iron as just another one of your manly gadgets and your secret weapon for success!

Now that you're an expert on how to iron pants, go knock 'em dead with your sleek look!

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