



Almgren's washing soap

Almgren's washing soap is our own product, especially produced for efficient and gentle washing of silk. Our washing soap also gives excellent results when washing other natural materials such as wool, linen and cotton as well as leather and suede. The natural materials retain their softness and luster thanks to the soap's cleansing and re-greasing. Conventional detergent removes all grease, which dry out natural materials and they lose their original properties to provide heat, coolness and to be dirt-repellent. Almgren's washing soap is also very skin-friendly to wash yourself with and is suitable for infant care.

The soap is made in Sweden and no preservatives or perfumes are added. The palm oil is from Colombia, organic and RSPO-certified. Visit the Silk Factory and buy your soap or find soap retailers near you on our website.

Did you know that...

-the silkworm lays several hundred eggs? When the eggs hatch, the silkworm is tiny. After a month, it has eaten large amounts of mulberry leaves and grown to about 9 cm. To turn into a butterfly, it constructs a cocoon and inside that cocoon it turns into a pupa.

-silk is the name of the fiber from which silkworm make their cocoon? The threads are glued together into a hard shell with the help of the protein sericin which the silkworm produces. The silk is extracted from the cocoon in hot water. A single cocoon consists of about 3000 m of silk thread.

Washing instructions for silk

In general, we wash our clothes far too often. The clothes last longer if we air them and remove stains instead. But when the clothes need to be washed, use Almgren's washing soap!

When washing by hand, add the soap to the water by "soaping" the fabric below the water surface. The water should not be warmer than 40 degrees. Note that the silk may shrink a little the first time you wash it.

For machine washing, add the soap by tearing the soap into fine flakes on a grater and put it in the detergent compartment. Take about 1 tablespoon to a full washing machine.

You can also put the soap bar in a small mesh laundry bag which, when the water is rinsed through the detergent compartment, "rubs" off an adequate amount of soap. Choose wool/silk program. Never tumble dry!

When cleaning suede shoes, leather sofas or wool rugs, use a sponge. Soap the sponge and squeeze out a lather with which you process the surface. Wipe off excess foam with a cloth.

For stain removal, pre-treat the surface by moistening it with water. Then you "massage in" the soap. Finish by rinsing. It is best to wash the entire garment to avoid an edge forming around the stain.

Fruit and berry stains are pre-treated with boiling water.

Advice and Tips on how to use Almgren's Washing Soap

Advice and tips from users

Many people who use Almgren's washing soap get in touch and say that in addition to washing silk, they have also used the soap to wash down jackets, pillows, as a shaving soap, to remove engine oil stains on car upholstery, to wash yarn skeins, linen cloths and as all-in-one-soap on the mountain hike. Here are some of the tips:

TEXTILE: Test the color fastness before washing the silk for the first time. Test with a damp cloth against a hidden area, such as the inside or a hem. If the cloth becomes stained, there may be excess dye that disappears during the first wash. If the garment is a single color, you can wash with water. It is good to add distilled white vinegar to all water baths. A few drops of distilled white vinegar in the water also counteracts static electricity and enhances the color. If the fabric is multicolored, however, the colors can blend into each other and ventilation is recommended instead. - *Kerstin Wölling*

CARPETS: I had left my Chinese carpet for dry-cleaning and got it back in a condition that I wasn't very pleased with. The old stains from red wine were still there. I crossed my fingers as I rubbed Almgren washing soap onto the carpet with a wet towel and worked on the stains with small movements. I was very surprised when most of the stains dissolved immediately. Then I just had to dry off the lather. The former stains had become cleaner than the rest of the carpet so I started washing the whole thing with enthusiasm. The result was a beautiful soft carpet with wonderful luster and shine. - *Monica Wästerlund*

YOUR OWN SKIN: I have for many years been suffering from psoriasis, especially inside the palm of my hands. After a visit at Almgren Silk Factory, I decided to try washing my eczema with the washing soap. After a couple of weeks, the crusts disappeared and the skin softened. The soap doesn't cure the disease but it relieves the symptoms. Nowadays I use the washing soap for my whole body and feel much better. - *Anonymous*

DOGS: I have got a Jack Russell. The dog, Bobby, is quite demanding, just like me. Bobby gets dirty from our long walks and sometimes it's necessary to give him a bath. As animals tend to more easily dry out and I'd heard that the Almgren washing soap was good for sensitive human skin, I decided to try it on Bobby. It should work. I put the dog in the bathtub and washed him with the soap. I noticed how he enjoyed the treatment. I rinsed him gently and dried him with a towel. It was a very content dog that settled down in a sunny spot to let the sun dry his fur. - *Lennart Pettersson*

LEATHER & SUEDE: My son loves his leather pants and always wears them, like teenagers do. In the end it became absolutely necessary to wash them. I poured tepid water into the bathtub and put down both the jacket and the pants. I rubbed them intently with the Almgren washing soap. Then I left them for a while in the soapy water. I showered them with cold water, but very little, because leaving soap in the material regreases it and prevents it from drying out. I put the garments out on a towel to dry. The day after when they had dried, I stretched them and they were like new again! - *Christina Sundberg*

WOOL SWEATER: The fiber of the sheep fur naturally contains a degree of fat. That's why wool sweaters are so lovely when they are new. Unfortunately, most washing powders are too hard on the wool and impoverish the fibers. Low pH values don't help much. I put my favorite sweater in tepid water as usually, but this time I worked on it immediately with the Almgren Washing Soap. I left it in the water for a while and rinsed it very gently. I pressed out the surplus water and let it dry lying on a towel. Once it dried it was actually softer than when it was new and it doesn't itch any longer. - *Oscar Almgren*

K A Almgren Silk Factory & Museum

Knut August Almgren (1806–1884) started a silk weaving mill on Södermalm in Stockholm in 1833 for weaving shawls, ribbons, upholstery and dress fabrics. The looms were equipped with the latest technology, the so-called jacquard mechanics, a French invention that Almgren had smuggled back to Sweden from a study trip to France. In the jacquard looms, the patterns of the silk fabrics are programmed with punched cards. An early form of computer! With the help of this invention, it was much faster to weave patterned silk fabrics than before.

It went well for Almgrens and the company expanded. In 1862, the factory building was built on Repslagargatan and here we still weave silk fabrics and ribbons on the original jacquard looms. In the 1870s, more than 280 people worked in the company and most were women who worked with weaving, reeling, warping and fringing. The largest product was silk scarves that were in demand by women throughout the country during the second half of the 19th century.

In 2020, Almgren's Silk Factory and the surrounding environment was declared a building monument.

Welcome to visit Scandinavia's oldest yet active industrial environment!

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