

HOW TO WASH EMBROIDERY & CROSS STITCH

Sometimes it's safer to not wash your piece. For all the pros and cons read the full blog post at www.rascallyrabbet.com/blog/f/the-best-way-to-wash-cross-stitch-and-embroidery

Supplies Needed

- 2-3 absorbent terry towels
- very clean sink or wash basin
- mild dish soap

Method

1. Fill your bin or sink with tepid water and a squirt of soap. If your piece is large or exceptionally soiled, use a bit more. Yes, dish soap is the best soap to use – because it is formulated to cut through oils and grease, like the ones left behind by your hands during stitching.
2. Swish your fabric **gently** until it is clean. This may take several minutes if your piece is very dirty. **Do not rub the face of the fabric on itself (i.e. scrub it)**. This can distort and/or damage the stitches.
3. Remove the fabric from the dirty water. **Do not wring (twist) the fabric**. Wringing will distort the stitches as it stretches the weave of the fabric unevenly.
4. Rinse the fabric gently in cool water several times until all soap residue is removed.
5. Roll the end of a large towel to form a cylinder, then roll your clean piece around this roll as you roll everything up in the remainder of the towel, similar to a Swiss Roll cake. If you don't have a large enough towel, use one smaller one to create a roll/base, and roll your piece around it as you roll up the second towel. Try to prevent any bunching or rippling of the stitched fabric and towel(s) as you roll – these will result in extra fold marks to your fabric. Squeeze the entire log gently, without twisting or wringing, to remove the excess water.
6. Unroll your piece – it will still be quite damp. Inspect for lint and remove if necessary. Lay the piece **face down** on your last towel, and iron gently on a low setting. Ironing from the back into a towel ensures your stitches will stay plump. This also allows you to fold back any loose stray threads which may show through the cloth (black threads on white fabric, for example) if they can't be trimmed.
7. Set your piece aside to cool and dry completely. Once dry, store the piece flat until it is framed (if you can). If it is too large to easily transport flat, keep your item rolled for as little time as possible. To minimize the chances of creases from crushing during transport, either use the towel method from Step 5 or roll with bristol board/cardstock. Cardboard poster tubes can be helpful if you have one handy.

