

Storing Seasonal Clothing

By Penny Keay

As the seasons change, so do our choices of clothing. So, we pack up the spring and summer articles and tuck them away. Then we unpack the Fall and Winter clothing. And, then, we do it all again as each season changes. Oh Boy, this can take up a whole weekend!

Now, many of us have children and may have several items to exchange. Do you ever notice how the stored clothing just has that – well – stored away smell? Even after laundering your clothing, just packing them away they seem to have this ‘seasonal’ odor.

You can easily help reduce your work so you won’t have to launder everything again.

First, since you may not have stored them previously with essential oils you can put them in the dryer with a washcloth or towel dampened with water and then add some essential oils to the dampened towels before putting them in the dryer. Use any scent you like. For me to freshen clothing I like the citrus scents. Lemon and Orange always smell so refreshing to me. Use your favorites or use a blend of two or three oils.

Now an easy way to get a head start next season, before storing the clothing and other seasonal items tuck a sachet or terra cotta diffuser in the box, drawer or bins. Again, use your favorite essential oils. We go to a cabin/resort each year and have to bring our own towels. I have a set of towels in a bin just for ‘cabin’ use and so I like to tuck a few Lavender Sachets in the bin before closing it up for the year.

Another method that is very simple is adding essential oils to the Terra Cotta and let them soak in completely.

This takes about 15-30 minutes depending on what essential oils you choose. Then wrap the terra cotta diffuser in a paper towel or two. Just to protect any clothing that might come in direct contact with the terra cotta disc.

If you are storing woolen items and live in an area when moths that like to eat holes in wool are prevalent you should strongly consider using Cedarwood essential oil on the sachets or discs. You can use other essential oils along with the Cedarwood, but definitely use Cedarwood as your main essential oil for storing woolen items.

You can make Cedarwood Sachets too using muslin bags and Cedarwood chips. Add extra Cedarwood essential oil to the chips and let it soak in before putting them in the muslin bags.

Experiment with different essential oil scents to find out which one you enjoy more – when you are unpacking and switching your clothing – six months from now. What scent do you want to smell then?

Good choices for storage include any of your favorites of course. Please realize that Pine and Citrus oils and some florals will disappear long before your storage time is done and you may choose to use others that will last longer. Or mix several essential oils including a base note such as Sandalwood, Patchouli, Vetiver, Cedarwood or such that will help to hold the scent longer.

To me, anything smells better than clothes stored away for months by simply adding a few essential oils to the storage boxes. In the long run, it is a lot more pleasant.

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