

# How-To Preshrink Slipcover Fabric

To make a washable slipcover that maintains its fit after you launder it, be sure to preshrink your slipcover fabric. Even fabrics labeled “washed” or “laundered” need to be preshrunk.

- 1 Cut yardage into 5 yard lengths.** Or, cut longer lengths, up to 8 yards, as long as the fabric fits in your washing machine and dryer with room to spare. Avoid packing the yardage in too tight, it will cause deep set wrinkles.
- 2 Machine wash fabric in hot water, no detergent.** Wash one fabric length at a time. Don't crowd the yardage with other laundry items.
- 3 Tumble dry on hot.** Wet yardage wads up into a ball pretty quickly after you put it into the dryer. It's really important to remove the fabric, unwind it and put it back in the dryer about every 5 to 10 minutes during the first half hour of drying. It's a hassle but believe me this is the best way to minimize wrinkles.
- 4 Remove fabric from dryer promptly when dry.** If you won't be using your fabric right away, roll it on a cardboard tube rather than folding it. This will keep fabric free of creases.

## Pressing is optional:

If your preshrunk yardage has big, raised wrinkles that interfere with draping the fabric smoothly as you do the pin fitting you might want to press it flat. I sometimes mist the fabric with a water spray bottle as I press.