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Menswear Magazine

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FALL ESSENTIALS—
 AND WHERE TO BUY THEM



PLUS: T

Your Suit, Sir!

Extraordinary suits demand extraordinary menswear—one of them being not bringing your custom-made Loro Piana to just any dry cleaner. America's Best Cleaners, a national group devoted to keeping men of style looking their dry-cleanest, has uncovered the crème de la crème of dry cleaners. "A high-end suit compared with an average, run-of-the-mill one is like comparing a Lamborghini with a Ford," says Ed D'Elicio, founder and executive director of the organization.

D'Elicio says a cleaner's first job is to assess your garment by its material, construction, dyes and embellishments, and details like buttons should be covered or removed, particularly if they're fragile or unique. Stains should be addressed prior to cleaning. D'Elicio says, "A good eye can always tell what kind of stain it is." And don't touch any stain yourself! "The odds of it coming out are slim to none with a home remedy," he says, refuting common home-treatments such as club soda (which has the same properties as water and does no more good), alcohol (which can alter dyes and discolor fabrics, ice (it may take out chewing gum, but dry-cleaning agents are less harsh on the fabric), nail polish remover (it may take out makeup, but it can also dissolve some fabrics), soap and water (it doesn't work with dry-based stains like glue, paint or oil, and in some instances, the combo actually helps the stain set and prevents it from being removed later), and color-safe bleach (there's no such thing).

Post-cleaning, dry cleaners should hand-finish your garments. "Specialized machines to press pants, shirts or coats are geared toward productivity and not quality," D'Elicio says.

Be prepared to spend \$10 and up on a hand-ironed shirt, and between \$15 to \$50 on a suit. But don't let this discourage you from becoming a regular. D'Elicio says shirts should be dry-cleaned after every wearing, and suits almost as often. "Your body emits oils and salts through perspiration, and that can affect the garment. If a designer discourages you from dry cleaning, that's not good advice." —JESSICA PALLAY



Cleaner Pastures

The finest dry cleaners are second- and third-generation professionals who know everything about the right way to clean clothes, says Ed D'Elicio of America's Best Cleaners, which rated these cleaners as tops. All offer full service, home or office delivery, emergency services, hand-finishing, dry-cleaning and shirt services, and shipping to anywhere in the country.

ATLANTA
 Presstine Cleaners
 4455 Roswell Rd.
 Atlanta, Ga. 30342
 404-255-4312
 www.presstine.com

BOSTON
 Holly Cleaners
 1314 Centre St.
 Newton Center, Mass. 02159
 617-527-3770
 www.hollycleaners.com

CLEVELAND
 London Cleaners
 26163 Chardon Rd.
 Cleveland, Ohio 44143
 216-731-3344

DALLAS
 Bibbentuckers
 4925 Greenville Ave., Suite 200
 Dallas, Texas 75206
 214-267-1700
 www.bibbentuckers.com

DARIEN, CONN.
 Fabricare Cleaners
 312 Heights Rd.
 Darien, Conn. 06820
 203-656-2273

LOS ANGELES
 Brentwood Royal Cleaners
 256 26th St.
 Santa Monica, Calif. 90402
 310-451-3663
 www.royalcleaner.com

MIAMI
 Rey's Cleaners
 2619 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
 Coral Gables, Fla. 33134
 305-443-0888
 www.reyscleaners.com

PHOENIX
 Z Cleaners
 16610 N. Scottsdale Rd.
 Scottsdale, Ariz. 85254
 480-348-2858
 www.zcleaners.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.
 Parkway Custom Drycleaning
 8402 Connecticut Ave.
 Chevy Chase, Md. 20815
 301-652-3377
 www.parkwaydrycleaning.com

16610 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

Phone: 602-CLEANERS