

# How to Clean and Reuse a Cloth Face Mask

Cloth face masks should be routinely replaced and washed after every use – and more frequently if they become soiled. Having a small set of masks per person is recommended – 5 cloth masks per person is a good number, but at least 2 per person is advisable. There aren't currently standardized safety protocols for cloth masks, but there are a few recommendations.

## Method 1: Machine Wash and Dry

The PA Department of Health and the CDC recommend cleaning cloth face masks by running them through the washer using hot water and regular detergent that leaves no residue, then drying them on the hottest setting in the dryer. Fabric softener can leave a residue, so it's not advisable to use it when washing cloth masks.

## Method 2: Boiling

While the PA Department of Health and the CDC recommend simply washing and drying on the hottest settings of a washer and dryer, another method that can be used is boiling. Cloth face masks can be boiled in a pot on the stove for 10 minutes. Then, they should be washed and dried on the hottest machine settings. This method is not an official recommendation, but it is an additional option that is currently being tested for effectiveness.

## Method 3: Bleach Solution

While the PA Department of Health and the CDC recommend simply washing and drying on the hottest settings of a washer and dryer, another method that can be used is soaking cloth masks in a bleach solution for 5 minutes. A bleach solution can be created with 2 tablespoons of bleach per 1 quart of water, or 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water. Then, the cloth masks should be washed and dried on the hottest machine settings. This method is not an official recommendation, but it is an additional option that is currently being tested for effectiveness.

## Information gathered from:

<https://www.inquirer.com/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid19-how-to-clean-face-masks-facemask-washing-20200407.html>