



NAKSHAPATTA

Wear the story. Know the weave.

THE SAREE CARE CHECKLIST

A printable, room-by-room guide to washing, storing and preserving your silk and handloom sarees — written from the lanes of Varanasi.

WASH-DAY CHECKLIST, BY FABRIC

Pure Silk (Banarasi, Kanjivaram, Tussar)

- Test colorfastness on an inside hem corner before the first wash.
- Use cold water only, with a pH-neutral shampoo — never a detergent bar or washing powder.
- Soak for a maximum of 3–4 minutes. Do not scrub the zari border.
- Never wring. Roll the saree in a dry cotton towel to press out water.
- Dry flat, in shade, away from direct sun and away from a fan's direct blast.
- Iron on the reverse side, silk/low setting, with a thin cotton cloth between iron and fabric.

Handloom Cotton (Chanderi, Maheshwari, Mangalagiri)

- First wash separately — handloom cotton sheds excess dye for the first 2–3 washes.
- Hand wash in cold water with a mild detergent; machine wash only on a gentle cycle, in a mesh bag.
- Air dry in shade; cotton handloom can tolerate more sun than silk, but color fades faster in direct heat.
- Starch lightly if you want the crisp Chanderi drape — rice water works as a natural alternative.

Zari and Metallic Thread

- Real zari tarnishes with humidity and skin oils — this is normal, not a defect.
- Never wash a heavy zari border at home; send it for dry cleaning.
- Wipe zari gently with a dry, soft cloth after each wear before storing.
- Keep zari borders away from perfume and deodorant spray — alcohol dulls the metal.

Ajrakh, Bandhani & Natural-Dye Prints

- Always wash separately for at least the first five wears — natural dyes bleed.
- Cold water, mild soap, no soaking. In and out within 2 minutes.
- A dash of vinegar in the rinse water helps set natural dye and reduce future bleeding.
- Dry inside-out in full shade to protect the print from sun-fading.

STORAGE CHECKLIST

- Wrap each saree in a clean muslin or cotton cloth — never in plastic, which traps moisture.
- Use neem or dried tulsi leaves as a natural moth deterrent — avoid naphthalene balls, which react with silk and zari over time.
- Refold every 3–4 months along slightly different lines, so permanent crease-breaks don't form along the zari.
- Store heavy pallus flat, not on a hanger — hanging distorts embroidery and zari-work weight over months.
- In humid or coastal cities, keep a small silica gel packet inside the almirah shelf.
- Keep silk and zari sarees away from direct wardrobe light and away from wood that hasn't been sealed — raw wood resin can stain fabric.

EMERGENCY STAIN FIXES

Stain	First Response	Avoid
Oil / ghee	Blot immediately, dust talcum powder over it, brush off after 20 minutes.	Rubbing — it spreads the stain into the weave.
Turmeric / haldi	Rinse under cold running water immediately, from the back of the fabric.	Hot water — it sets turmeric permanently.
Sweat marks	Sponge with a mix of cold water and a few drops of white vinegar.	Deodorant spray directly on silk before wearing.
Mehendi / henna	Scrape off excess gently, cold rinse only, professional clean if it's on zari.	Any scrubbing near metallic thread.