

## **CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS**

To get the best care for Gino Cerruti gown, keep your focus on finding the best gown cleaning and preservation services available. Unfortunately most dry-cleaners forward them to wholesale dry-cleaners for cleaning and preservation. These wholesale cleaners usually dry-clean their customer's gowns with 20 to 30 others. Little attention is paid to individual gowns. And anything on the other dresses will most likely now be on yours. So, if you choose to go through a local dry-cleaner, find one who does the cleaning themselves, instead of sending it out to the wholesalers. Look for a company that cares about their equipment and the quality of their staff. They will likely be more expensive. Try to find a cleaner who cleans each gown one at a time and will care for your gown like their own.

The problem is that only a small proportion of cleaners can be trusted to undertake to clean and finish a delicate and precious item with the care and skill necessary to give you the best possible results. Make sure that they comply with BSI TCI/82 standards and meet the this compliance requirements

These are the processes a good cleaner must go through to clean your dress properly:

1. Carefully check for stains, damage or any weaknesses.
2. Test any beads, roses, bows or other adornments to ensure they are safe in the cleaning solvent chosen for your dress.
3. Treat any stain correctly and carefully.
4. Put the dress through a suitably delicate process in pure, unused or freshly distilled solvent.
5. Ensure that the dress is dried at the correct temperature and for the right amount of time.
6. Check the dress for any remaining stains and repeat the above if necessary.
7. Carefully assess the dress before finishing to judge what methods to use and decide the right sequence to follow.
8. Hand iron the dress from top to bottom taking pains to:

- Individually iron any frills around the neck line.
- Iron the sleeves using a sleeve board.
- Work down the bodice, ironing each panel separately.
- Iron each layer of the underskirt.
- Press any layers in the skirt all the way round by hand, stretching any lace work back into place.
- Complete each layer, first ironing and then steaming folds into place.
- Iron bows so they are rounded and full, not flat and lifeless.
- Steam and manipulate any silk roses into their correct shape.
- Pack sleeves and bows with acid free tissue paper.
- Use a body former draped with acid free tissue paper to form the body of the dress.
- Hang the dress to see that it drapes properly and make adjustments where necessary.

9. Pack the dress in a purpose built cover or specially prepared acid free box.

Most cleaners wouldn't even begin this process correctly and that's why it's important to show them these instructions.