



Fun-Fur-All Hand Washing Tutorial

Disclaimer – This tutorial is for Fun-Fur-All Clients. Always check with your maker before washing your suit, especially for the first time.

The methods shown here are what I have been using for over a decade, and thus are tried and tested for myself and my clients.



So it's time to wash your Fursuit!
Pictured above is my personal suit, Coral, who has a giant attached tail. This makes washing a little difficult but not impossible.

Here is a list of the items used for handwashing a Fursuit:

- Towels – You will need a few, the bigger the better
- Oxi Clean Laundry Soap – I use the baby formula
- Oxi Clean Spot Cleaner – I use the baby formula
- Pantene ProV Smooth and Sleek Conditioner - optional
- Slicker/Boar hair brush combo
- Blow Dryer – Optional but super handy



The first thing you'll want to do is remove all the padding/stuffing from inside your suit and hand paws. You can set this aside to launder in a pillowcase, reuse it as is, or fully replace if a bit too smelly.



If you have foam padding, you can set it aside, or gently wash by hand and air dry if it needs it. You can do that by following the first steps with the Oxi Clean, rinse, squeeze out as much water as you can, and air dry with fans. Most foam won't need washing if it's not touching your body.

3D eye example



To prep your head for washing, I like to first protect the eyes.

I do this by folding up a piece of paper towel, so it approximately covers the painted pupil and iris parts.

Once you have the paper towel folded to size you will want to stuff it inside the 3D eye (pictured on the left) or place it over top of the 2D eye (pictured on the right)

Then I take masking tape and cover over the whole eye. Make sure you overlap on the tops, sides and bottom of the eye for the best protection.

With the eyes fully taped over you should have something that looks like these pics. I use 2-inch-wide tape, so it only took 2 pieces to get the coverage I needed.

When you remove the tape, the paper towel lifts off with it. You can see there is no damage to the suit head and eyes at all. The tape may lift a very small amount of loose fur fibers, do not worry about this at all, it's totally fine.

2D eye example





****Coral's eyes are solid black mesh with no paint, so I did not need to cover or protect them****

Make sure to remove ALL electronics from the head. This includes the muzzle fan and battery pack.

Back to washing the body!



Now that all the padding/stuffing is removed you'll have a rather skinny, limp looking body suit.

You can see the giant padded tail that I don't need to wash. This is because it never touches my body and so it won't get sweaty. Its much easier to keep it out of the tub and wash everything else.

If your tail is detachable either by a zipper or belt loops, you can simply remove the tail. Coral's tail is not detachable.

I prop the tail out of the tub as best as I can and toss the hand paws in the tub too.



I lay out the neck and chest of the body suit, which gets the sweatiest for me so the water and soap can easily get to it.

Plug up the tub with your stopper at this point.



Start filling up your tub with warm (Not Hot!) water. This is more for the comfort of your hands.

Next, measure out the smallest quantity of Oxi Clean laundry soap. Approximately 2 to 3 tablespoons. You do not need a lot!



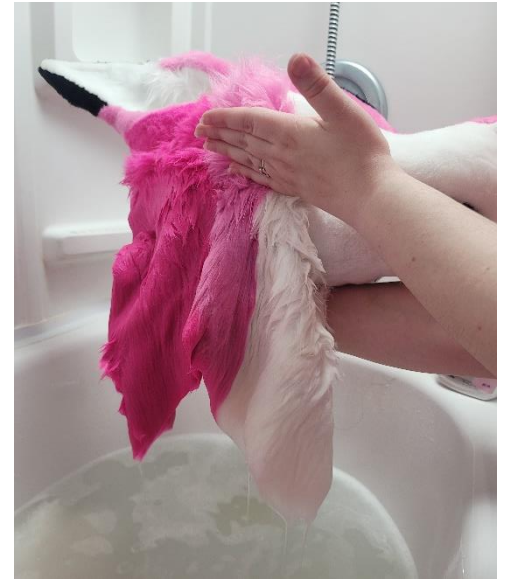


Add the Oxi Clean to the tub under the running water. This helps mix it evenly and prevents too much powder from clumping over the fur.

I fill the tub about 4 to 5 inches deep and give everything a good mix and squish, agitating the fur by hand.



Pay special attention to the neckline and armpits of your body suit, make sure to give it a good scrub!



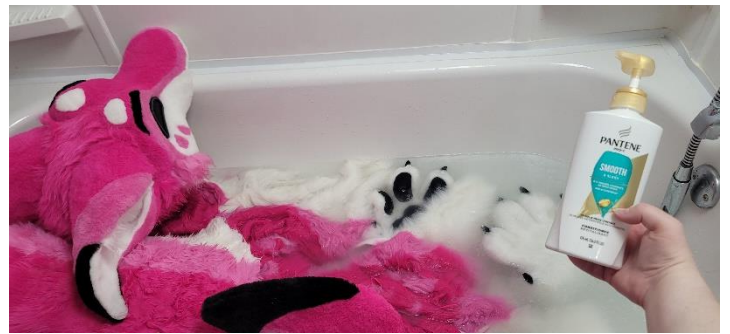
At this point the water will be mostly cloudy with dirty water and laundry soap. Time to rinse!

Now to wash the head. You don't want to dunk the whole thing; I usually just do the neck, but you can get the back of the head wet up to the brow/eye area if you want. I find washing just the neck area works great for me.



I move as much of the suit to the shallow end of the tub and allow the dirty water to drain. Once the water has drained, I then use my hands and squeeze out some of the extra soapy water.

I then take the shower head and give the body a good rinse with warm water, squishing the fur as I go and doing my best to get the soapy water out of the fur.



This step is optional, but I would encourage you to give it a try. I refill the tub with 5ish inches of warm water once more and add in 5 to 6 pumps of Pantene ProV Smooth and Sleek conditioner to the water as it fills. This is a trick I've done for decades, and it restores the fur to fresh-from-the-maker smooth. It also smells great!

I have not tested other smoothing conditioners, so do so at your own risk. I would recommend testing it on a hand paw before doing a full body if you choose to use another brand.



I usually let the conditioner soak for about 5 minutes.

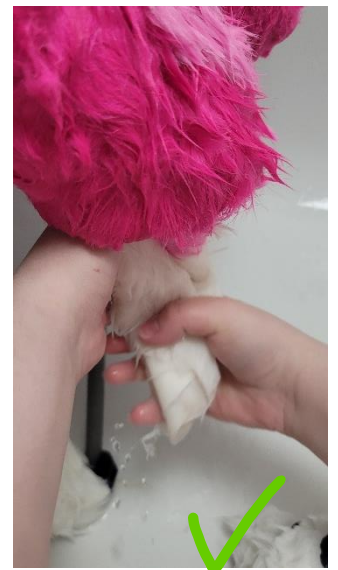
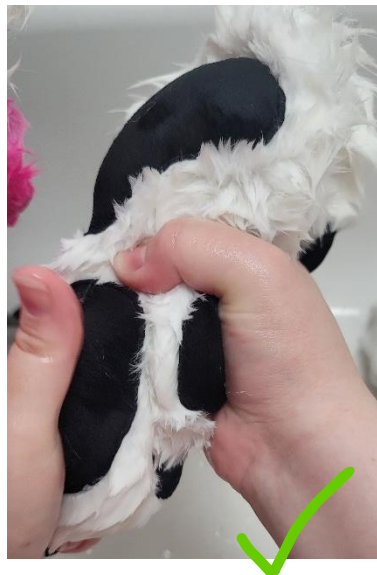
Once done, I repeat the emptying of the tub steps and rinse once more with the shower head.

Make sure to give a little extra rinse if you are sensitive to soaps or shampoos, as this is the final step involving water.

Now we want to squeeze the excess water out of all the fur.

DO NOT WRING OR TWIST! Doing so can stretch the backing of the fur, which is more likely to happen when the fur is soaking wet.

Squish and squeeze, no twisty!



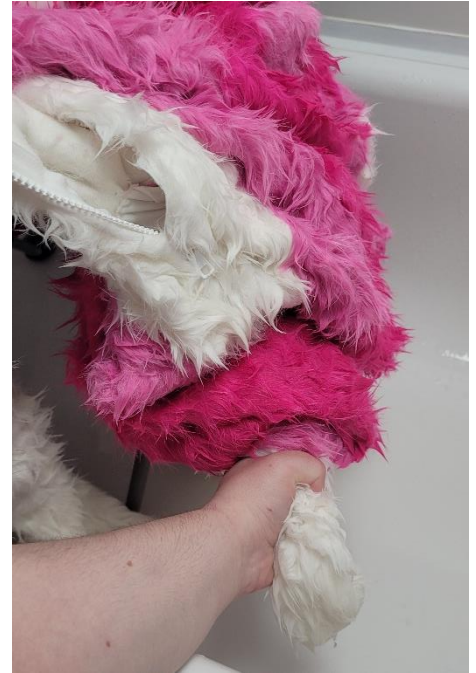


I now prop up the body suit to drip dry for a little. I do this by using a regular folding camping chair (or any waterproof item) just to help raise the fur up from the tub. Let gravity to the work for you.

DO NOT hang a wet body suit up on a hanger as the weight of the water in the fur can cause the backing to stretch over the shoulders.

Occasionally I will go back and give the lower parts a squeeze to remove the pooling water from them.

I let the body drip for an hour or so.



With the body washed, its time to surface wash the feet.



I use the spot cleaner Oxi Clean for the feet. You want to wet the fur with a washcloth before spraying the Oxi Clean onto a wet cloth.



Rub the Oxi Clean into the soiled areas in small circles.



Wipe away the Oxi Clean with a fresh wet cloth.



Repeat the previous two steps as needed until you are happy with the results.

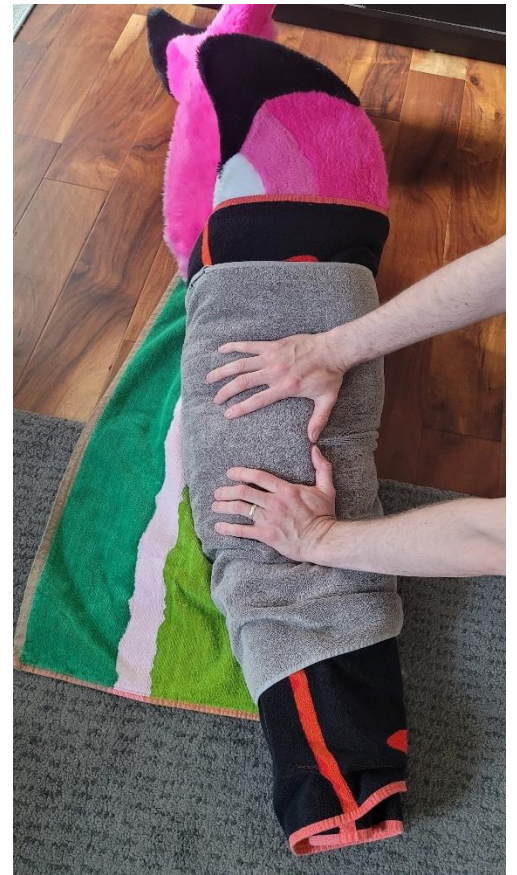


To help remove the last bit of dripping water before air drying, I do a 'camping bag roll'.

Start with your suit laid out flat on a few towels. From one end you're going to carefully roll your bodysuit into the towel, kind of like a giant furry cinnamon bun.

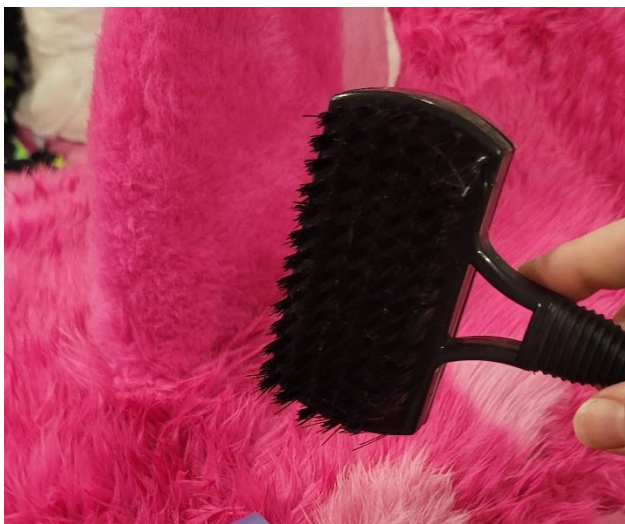
Once rolled all the way up, give it a couple good squeezes and presses to really allow those towels to absorb as much water as possible.

(I left the tail and dorsal fin out of the roll, as both did not get soaked during the wash)



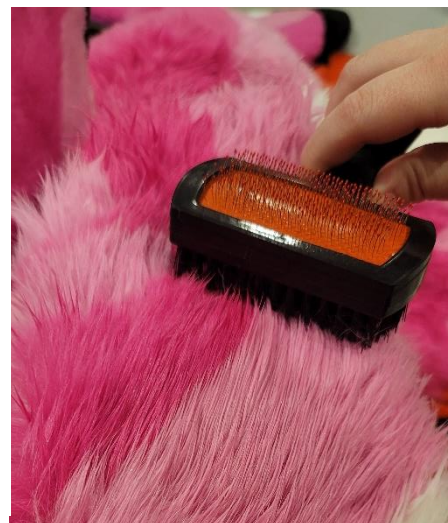
Once rolled, I then lay everything out flat on a few more towels and in front of or below a fan. The more air moving the better and faster your suit will dry! I have the body propped up over a small step stool with a fan pointing under it for extra air flow. You will want to flip and turn things occasionally for even drying.





As the fur is drying, you might want to brush it to help prevent any kinks or wavy-ness in the fur.

My favorite brush to use for this is the boar hair bristle side of this slicker combo brush. The gentle boar bristles smooth the fur rather than pulling or tugging at the backing like some slicker brushes can do.



If you wish to expedite the drying, you can use a blow dryer.

Set it to WARM not hot. My general rule is if you can keep your hand 2 inches away from the end of it for more than 10 seconds, then it's the correct temperature.

Keep the blow dryer going in the direction of the fur fibers and gently smooth out the fur with the boar hair brush.

If you don't want to risk using warm air, and your blow dryer has a 'cool' option, you can use that setting and get even closer to the fur.



Once my suit is fully dry, I will put it up on a wide shouldered hanger. I take my blow dryer on the higher end of warm, keeping it about 4 inches away from the fur, I blow dry the fur to remove any kinks or waves that I may have missed during the drying process. I keep the blow dryer moving and monitor the temperature the whole

You can see the difference the blow dryer makes in the image to the right. The left side of the chest has been blow dried and brushed, versus the right side which was just air dried.





And you're done!

You can now store your freshly washed suit in your desired way until your next outing. I like to keep my suit in a big closet with plenty of space around it. The head I store above on a shelf, or sometimes in my living area as looking at her brings me joy.



If you have a head bag for transport, now is a great time to wash that too. Because the neck of the head tends to get sweaty, the carrying bag can get a little dirty or smelly. These can be popped into your regular washer and dryer. Wash on cold with similar colors and your favorite detergent, and dry on medium warm with fabric sheets of your choosing.

Extras:

I surface wash my heads the same way I do my feet, with the Oxi Clean spot cleaner and damp cloths.

If you have a little green machine, you can use this for surface washing as well, be sure to use the pet shampoo with it, and follow directions. (I recommend the pet shampoo because its enzyme based to help remove pet messes and other organic stains. Sweat is also organic and thus, the pet shampoo works wonders on it too. If you have a stain from other sources, like grass, oil, etc., spot treat with the Oxi Clean first)

If at any point in time you feel like you've gotten the eyes wet, take a dry paper towel and gently blot the area (make sure your hands are dry too) Do not wipe, this can cause smudging in worst cases. The eyes are sealed twice on the front and back, this is more just a precaution to prevent any chance of water damage.