



Tip of the Month—May 2016



Storing your handmade garments

I have heard a number of useful tips recently about how to store your hand-made items—whether made from wool and/or cotton – keeping them in shape and free from bugs and moths and mould and prolonging their life. Some of these methods do depend on your location and the issues you have, so they are not suitable for everyone.

1. Never hang your hand knitted/crocheted garment as they will lose their shape – instead fold them or roll them up and place them on a shelf.
2. When storing your woolens away for a period of time – make sure they are clean and dry. The fibre-eating pests are attracted to stained fibres and damp fibres will rot.
3. One lady I know recommends never washing items made with pure wool unless it contains a visible stain – instead place your item inside a bag and place it flat in the freezer – this eliminates odors and keeps it free from mould and fibre-eating pests.
4. If you are in a location experiencing mould, one suggestion is to store your cotton items in the fridge.
5. When you are storing your winter woolies away during the warmer months, here are some methods used:
 - a) store your woolen items in ventilated plastic hampers, with tissue paper between the layers,
 - b) fold garments flat and place them between acid-free tissue paper (available from dry cleaners) in a cedar chest or in plastic sweater boxes with a cedar block or chips near them,
 - c) fold them and place inside a cotton pillow case sealed tightly (as moths don't eat through cotton).
 - d) fold your items and stack in an air-tight container to keep the bugs out (although, I have heard that sealing them in air-tight containers can cause the characteristics of the yarn to change, as animal fibres need to breathe).
 - e) fold flat and stack in an air-tight container with lavender or patchouli soaked cotton wool balls—both natural moth repellants. Replace when the smell disappears.