



# PRIMAL ROOTS

## Cleaning Your Costume

Wash and maintain your costume to remove sweat, stains, and dirt. This will extend the life of your costume and keep it smelling fresh!

Please read the whole guide before starting the process of washing your suit, there are tips and recommendations at the end.



### Mask

- Store your mask indoors in a cool, dry place.
- Allow your mask to have space around it in storage.
- Foam parts like ears can become misshapen if they are squeezed or crushed for a long period of time.
- We recommend wearing a balaclava inside your mask to keep sweat from accumulating in the foam.
- You can place a dryer sheet inside the mask after use to keep it smelling fresh.
- Your mask should only be washed by hand.
- Avoid scrubbing airbrush paint, whiskers, and eyes.
- Gently wash eyes with cold water and a cloth or Q tip.
- Carpet stain removers are usually safe on fursuits. We recommend Folex, Spot Shot, or Oxiclean.
- Masks usually only need a spot cleaning on the outside and an occasional scrub on the inside.
- Foam-based masks can be soaked in a tub or sink with dermatologist recommended laundry detergent for really bad cases of stink or in the rare case of mold, but avoid soaking the eyes.
- After soaking, squeeze out excess water and allow your mask to sit in a dry place for a few days.
- Avoid fabric softener.
- After cleaning, while your mask is still wet, brush the fur so that it dries soft and unmatted.
- Pointing a fan at your mask will help it dry quickly; this is highly recommended if you live in an area with a lot of humidity to prevent mildew forming.
- When you're ready to go out wearing your mask, you may need some light brushing with a slicker brush or a comb.

### Costume Parts

Costume parts include hand and feetpaws, arm sleeves, and tails.

- Store all costume parts in a cool, dry place.
- Digitigrade feetpaws and other pieces that use a lot of foam construction should be stored upright and unsmooshed to avoid the foam becoming misshapen.
- For the greatest longevity, spot-clean and spray sweaty parts out with a disinfectant solution after each use.
- Costume parts can be soaked in a sink or tub in lukewarm water with dermatologist recommended laundry detergent.
- Most costume parts can be cleaned in a washing machine set to 'delicate' and cold.
- Protect plastic claws and spikes in a washing machine by first tying them in a pillowcase with a hair or rubber band.
- Parts that cannot be washed in a machine are foam-based hooves and parts that use metal (some large tails).
- Digitigrade feetpaws and other pieces that use a lot of foam construction will last longer when washed by hand.
- Make sure the soap has been thoroughly rinsed out before setting parts out to dry.
- Periodically brush the fur on a piece that is drying so that it dries soft and unmatted.
- We do not recommend using a top-load washer with an agitator for parts, it may disfigure tails or foam.
- Do not use a heated dryer for costume parts.

## Bodysuit

The bodysuit is the most important part of the costume to keep clean and well maintained. Make sure to wash the bodysuit as soon as possible once it has gotten sweaty.

- First, remove padding from the bodysuit.
- Apply stain remover to trouble areas on the inside and outside of your suit, carefully avoiding airbrushing if you have it.
- After scrubbing stains, submerge the bodysuit in a tub filled with lukewarm water with dermatologist recommended laundry detergent. Allow it to sit for at least an hour.
- While the costume is soaking, ease out wrinkles and matting with a slicker brush or comb. The worst areas are usually the thighs, butt, knees, and armpits. Gently work at the matting in the direction of the fur to avoid pulling out clumps.
- Once finished, drain the tub and squish out as much liquid as possible by pressing. Avoid wringing it out, as that may stretch the material. The bodysuit is heavy when waterlogged, so it may help to have a plastic laundry basket on hand to move it.
- You can wash your bodysuit in a washing machine. Turn it inside-out and set your machine to 'delicate' and cold and use dermatologist recommended laundry detergent. Keep in mind, tub washing is safer for suits with airbrush.
- Set your costume out to dry on a flat surface. If it is not waterlogged, the body can be hung up to dry.
- Brush out the entire bodysuit several times during different stages of drying in order for the fur to stay soft and unwrinkled.
- Padding will have the greatest longevity from a gentle hand wash in the tub or sink.

## Extra Information

### Recommended Products

- Folex (great at conventions).
- Spot Shot carpet stain remover.
- OxiClean carpet stain remover.
- 'All' brand washer detergent for 'sensitive skin' (Contains no softeners, dyes, or scents).
- SpotBot carpet machine.
- Vornado fan.
- A small sewing kit for popped seams at conventions.
- Hot glue to fix small areas like the fur on outdoor footpaws pulling from the sole.
- E6000 glue to fix things like the rubber peeling up from outdoor feet soles.
- Super glue to fix things like plastic claws or teeth popping off.

### Natural Disinfectant Solution

This solution is great for conventions and short outings, but does not replace a good bath!

- Measure out 1:1 isopropyl alcohol 70% and distilled water in a small spray bottle.
- Slowly add essential oils until fragrant, usually around 10-20 drops.
- Shake to mix.



### General Notes

- We always wear a moisture-wicking long-sleeve shirt and pants for 'warm weather' under our suits (Under Armor, Adidas, Nike etc). It's so much more comfortable than regular clothes, and helps protect the costume from sweat.
- Drink a lot of water before, during, and after performing- you will sweat a lot!
- Dryer sheets can be stored in fursuit parts to maintain a fresh smell, but do this sparingly.
- Chemical fragrances can cause an oily texture in faux fur, we recommend essential oils for fragrance.
- Avoid Lysol and Febreze, these types of products break down some materials.
- 'Dermatologist recommended' or 'sensitive skin' detergents are best because they do not contain softeners, scents, or dyes.
- Extreme heat will damage faux fur, foam, and fursuit eyes. Avoid dryers, and try not to leave your suit in a hot car.
- That being said, a hair dryer can fix crimping in fur. Check out this tutorial by Matrices: [https://youtu.be/6d\\_TMfX93Gg](https://youtu.be/6d_TMfX93Gg)

**If you have any questions please contact us at [primalrootscrafts@gmail.com](mailto:primalrootscrafts@gmail.com)**