

ing color that has bled from dark clothes into light, but use it in a bucket or sink, not in the washing machine, and test the fabric first.

The Heimlich maneuver for washing machines

Occasionally your washer may swallow something too large (socks, buttons, etc.) and choke. First REMOVE THE PLUG FROM THE ELECTRICAL OUTLET. Somewhere near the ground, either in back or behind a panel, you'll find a cover you can open. When you do, water runs out, so

be ready with a pan and towels. Inside is the hose for emptying out the water in an emergency and the filter for the pump. This needs to be cleared out occasionally, and can hold all kinds of surprises.

Now you speak its language, understand its needs, and can give it basic first aid. It knows it can trust you, and will dedicate its life to getting your clothes REALLY CLEAN. Next month: Make Friends With Your Dryer. ■