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If you're applying a label to new clothing, pre-wash the garment and dry it first. Use clean and completely dried garments only, because labels applied to dirty or even slightly damp garments may not stick properly. Below are a few tips and some instruction on how to use these increasingly popular iron-on labels, which can be applied quickly and easily with just a hot iron and a thin, dry pressing cloth.

1. You only want dry heat coming from the iron, so make sure the iron is set to a "no steam" setting. Moisture can negatively affect the adhesive on many brands of labels.
2. Once your garment is laid out and the iron is hot, find a thin piece of felt or cloth that can be used as pressing cloth between the iron and the label. Direct contact with the iron can singe or burn your label.
3. Check the instructions for the brand of labels you have purchased, but generally 10-20 seconds of firm pressure from the iron is enough to make the label stick.
4. Once your garment has had a chance to cool, you should test the corners of the label with your fingernails. If any portions of the label are loose, re-apply the iron for a short period of time.
5. Once you're happy with your newly labeled garment, remember that using detergents with bleach can fade the lettering on a lot of labels. However, most labels will last for longer than the garment itself if applied correctly.
6. After applying labels to your children's clothing, you'll be pleasantly surprised to see how much less frequently their things tend to disappear. Of course, labels alone won't completely solve the problem, but at least their friends' parents and their teachers can more easily sort out where the mysterious shirts and sweaters in their homes and classrooms are coming from.

## How to Apply Iron On Clothing Labels

Before You Start Empty any water out of your iron. Put your iron setting to cotton (medium to high) and turn off the steam setting. NO STEAM can be used when ironing on these labels so that they will adhere correctly. Empty all water out of your iron for an extra precaution. Peel off one of your Iron-On Clothing Labels from the plastic backing sheet. These labels will have a plastic feel and will not be sticky to the touch. Once the heat of the iron goes on to it, that's when the adhesion will happen. If you're putting it on clothing such as a t-shirt, you'll need to turn it inside out, so that it's easier to iron on to. Then place the Iron-on Label face-up on your fabric (the text side face-up). Place the treated paper supplied with your labels over the top of the label. If you run out or lose the treated paper, see tips below. Using a hot dry iron with NO STEAM (usually cotton temp is fine), apply a lot of pressure for approximately 10-20 seconds (see tips on testing the temperature below). It's best to use the pointed part of the iron to really push the label into the fabric. Remove the iron off the label and allow the paper to cool. Slowly peel the treated paper away from the label. Check to make sure that the entire label has stuck to the fabric by stretching it in both directions read our tips on testing the label below.

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[Jasina](#) - About Author:

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