



Utrecht Art Supplies Eliminating Creases in Canvas



Ask the Expert: “I bought a folded piece of linen, and after I unfolded it, it has creases. How do I remove them? I don’t want them to show up in the painting.”

A: Creases in folded canvas nearly always release during the stretching process. If a piece of canvas has creases that look very deep, however, and you’re not confident they will disappear completely, there are a few techniques that can help remove them before stretching.

A clothing steamer will usually get rid of very pronounced wrinkles on small pieces of canvas. If a clothes steamer is difficult or impractical to use due to the size of the canvas, creases can be reduced by lightly spraying the fabric with water and putting it in the clothes dryer on low heat. **Important:** only attempt to use this

method with completely untreated fabric; never put any painted or primed canvas in a clothes dryer. Remove the fabric from the dryer promptly to avoid further wrinkling.

Any faint creases that remain will disappear after stretching if you apply a coat of Acrylic Canvas Size before priming with acrylic, oil or alkyd. In addition to smoothing out wrinkles, sizing prior to priming stiffens fabric, which helps maintain a flat surface when canvas is stretched. Sizing also reduces the number of gesso coats required to protect the support from destructive effects of oil.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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