



“Jem Doll Rescue”

This tutorial will cover dealing with that orphan Jem doll who is dirty, has messy hair and is perhaps even smelly.

So many dolls need a home but have been “well played with”. However, there are many disgusting dolls I have used these techniques on who have since gone on to become some of my favorites.

In this handout I will discuss the process and Supplies needed to restore your dolls. My goal is to cover as much as possible during the time we have. Otherwise, I hope this guide will continue to be helpful to you with future rescues.

1.) The bath - finding the doll under the dirt

Supplies:

Antibacterial hand soap, Toothbrush, Face cloth/Rag & Towel.

Instructions:

Run tap water to desired temperature (as warm as you can tolerate)

Next you simply place doll in the sink. Lather her up fully with antibacterial hand soap, being sure to be thorough. Using a hand washing type motion.

Take the toothbrush and gently scrub body with soap still on doll to remove surface dirt. Be careful when cleaning face, or you can damage paint. Also, do not wash hair yet, we will get to that later.

Once doll is cleaned to satisfaction, wipe with facecloth/towel and dry as best as possible so you can begin the next step “The nourishing and feeding.” The process of bathing the doll with soap removed moisture that simply needs to be put back in.

2.) Nourishing the vinyl & plastic

Supplies:

Face Cloth, Q-tips/Cotton Swabs, Paper Towels & Seabreeze Astringent (sensitive skin, found in any drug store)

Instructions:

First dampen the cloth with the Seabreeze. This product is very safe to use on the entire dolls body. This product not only deep cleans, but contains many oils and other ingredients that nourish and freshen the vinyl and plastic.

Tie the doll's hair back, then begin wiping the entire doll's body from face to toes with the seabreeze dampened cloth (do not use on the hair). You will notice this will remove even more dirt that the soap didn't reach. Be sure to get into all areas of the doll's body. Again, be careful when cleaning the face. Seabreeze will not harm the paint, but scrubbing too hard will. This is where the Q-tips come in handy. You can use Q-tips/swabs to get into all of the small areas.

Do not wash doll again. The Seabreeze will evaporate on it's own and leave a fresh and squeaky clean doll. Simply place her near a window to dry thoroughly.

4.) Dealing with that messy hair. Washing, conditioning and additional products useful in bringing her hair back from insanity

Supplies:

Gentle Shampoo, Ordinary Bargain Conditioner, Comb/Jem Hair Pick, Frizz Ease hair serum, Towel. For curly haired dolls you will also need a woman's trouser sock or knee high (a piece of pantyhose will work).

Instructions:

Gently Wash the doll's hair thoroughly with shampoo and warm water.

Once you have rinsed the shampoo you will begin conditioning. Lie the doll in the sink and pour plenty of conditioner on her hair (this will get messy). With your hands work the conditioner around in the doll's hair to be sure it is completely coated.

Now you want to gently comb through the conditioner soaked hair. Be patient and don't tear through it, this will cause breakage, pull hair-plugs out and make matters worse. Begin at the bottom and by placing the hair over your fingers, gently work through the knots and tangles. I prefer to use a jem pick, but a wide tooth comb also works fine. The key is patience and taking your time.

When the comb goes completely through all of the hair with no snags, you are finished with this part of the process. Rinse conditioner with luke-warm water. Leave a small amount of conditioner in the hair (just enough to keep it soft but not greasy).

The next step is only necessary if you are working with a curly haired doll, or the hair is still very dry after conditioning.

Massage a small amount of frizz serum through the doll's hair (a couple drops), concentrating on the frizziest most dry parts (a little goes a long way). Then once again do a gentle comb through adding more frizz serum as needed. Hair will seem a little greasy at first, but the product will evaporate. You can also dab it with paper towels to soak up any excess, should you use too much. For curly haired dolls, you wrap their head with the nylon stocking (just like a hairnet). This will compress the curls to a nicer shape while the product and hair dry.

Once again you place the doll in a window or other well vented area to dry. Being sure your doll is dry is very important to avoid dreaded mold.

3.) On no stains!!! here's what to do

If you have remaining dark spots or stains on your doll, they may need further attention.

Supplies:

Clearasil, Oxy or Zit Zap (a benzoyl peroxide acne cream found in the drug store)
Acetone Nail Polish Remover. I personally don't recommend straight acetone. It may melt the doll.

Instructions:

For spots on the face (ink or other) you want to use the acne cream. Simply place a small dab on the spot you're looking to remove. Again, careful of the face paint!!!

This requires patience as you want to leave this on the doll for up to a week. Be sure she's placed in a darker area while the cream is on. Sunlight can cause excessive bleaching.

After about 5 days, gently remove the acne cream with a moist cloth. The spot should be lightened. You can repeat the process until you reach desired results. Wash and rinse spot thoroughly with soap and warm water. Be sure to thoroughly remove all cream from the doll's face in the end, or it may continue bleaching her face.

This method works in most cases. Sometimes it will only lighten the mark, but enough to make your doll displayable again.

Now for Marks on the body. You can try acetone nail polish remover with a Q-tip/ cotton swab. Gently scrub until desired results are achieved. I've also heard of people using Rubbing alcohol for this. Just remember, whatever moisture you remove, you will need to put back in with seabreeze or a light moisturizer.

In some cases once again marks may not budge but only lighten the spot. However, this is the time to try to work around the flaw to still use the doll for display. Try using a fashion that will cover or take attention away from the mark. For example, if the mark is on the legs, use a pants fashion or tights with the doll.

5.) Jem's earrings don't work. Instructions on removing old batteries, removing corrosion and making the most impossible earrings once again flash!

Supplies

1.55 volt batteries, small Phillips screwdriver, small scraping tool (flathead screwdriver)

This is a great way to enhance your Jem Doll! Cases vary doll to doll as to what it will take to make the earrings work again. I've had a great success rate, though unfortunately some dolls have wire damage but most still will work. The biggest problem causing them not to work is either dead batteries and/or corrosion. Here's what to do:

Instructions:

I want to say firstly, be very careful of old batteries and the dust you may encounter. Dispose of old batteries and residue immediately.

First you remove the back cover with the small Phillips head screwdriver. Be careful not to strip the screw. Once the cover is off, simply dump the batteries into the garbage. You may notice that the battery posts are grungy or "crusty". If so you have some corrosion removal to do.

Take the small flathead (or whatever works for you to do scraping). First you want to scrape the small circular posts inside of the doll's back. Thoroughly scrape them until you see silver again. You will probably scratch the posts, but that's fine.

Next you want to remove the battery dust. You can simply do this with a vacuum, or compressed air.

Now place the batteries inside (you will see markings inside of the posts and on the batteries indicating '+' or '-'). This will help you place the batteries correctly. Before placing the cover back on, give those metal posts a light scraping and pinch them toward the middle just a little (lifting them will tighten the contact. Now you place the cover on, and screw it back in.

99% of the time the earrings will flash amazingly. If for some reason they don't, don't panic and try adjusting the tension on the screw until they light up. Also, sometimes giving the cover a little 'wack' will activate the connection. If they still don't light, try removing the cover once more and adjusting and re-scraping the metal on the back plate.

Once you get this down, you will find it easy to revive Jem's earrings over and over.

Sites Featuring Great Tutorials for doll Rescue & Custom Techniques

www.beyondjem.com

This site hosted by Shevona aka shevonabmx, features great picture guides and how to on topics such as boil perms, hair dying and much more! You will find this very helpful in taking Doll Rescue to the next level!

www.jemgirl.com

This site hosted by Rachael aka jemgirl also feature great picture guides on Re-Painting, Re-Rooting and offers many custom services. You will also find this site very helpful in Doll Rescue and beyond.

I Thank You very much for attending "Doll Rescue"
I hope the information I've given and techniques demonstrated will help and allow you to uncover your own treasures from the less fortunate of dolls who may find a place in your home.

Please feel free to visit my site and e-mail me with any questions, success stories and new ideas that these methods may have provided.

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It's been a pleasure working with all of you, and I hope to see you next year!



