



## How to Iron On SoccerHelp.com Patches So they Stay Attached

Children should not iron on the patches – use the iron only with an adult present.

1. To iron on the patches, first warm up the iron for 5 minutes (unless it is a rapid heat iron) on a medium (silk/wool) setting (or higher if possible without scorching the fabric). **The iron must be hot enough to melt the glue.**
2. For best results, use the iron to first heat the place where you are going to place the patch.
3. Then position the patch where you want it to permanently be with the glue side against the fabric.
4. Press the iron firmly to the patch and hold for 10 seconds as a test. It usually takes 20-25 seconds to fully melt the glue, but irons vary, so be careful and don't burn or melt the fabric.
5. **If the glue isn't fully melted or if you handle the patch before the glue dries, the patch may start to come off the fabric.** If this happens, iron it on again.
6. **To prevent burning of the fabric and to get better adhesion: First, position the patch in the desired location and apply the iron to melt the glue. Then turn the material inside out and iron through the material against the underside of the patch.** This allows you to see areas where the glue was not fully contacting with the material and get better heating.
7. **You MUST let the Patch set for a few minutes until it is cool before you handle it so the glue can dry.**
8. Our patches have excellent adhesion that is superior to any other one inch iron-on patches we have tried. Once the patch is ironed on, it may not be possible to remove it without damaging the fabric.
9. Patches can be ironed on most fabrics. They are often ironed on jersey sleeves, backs or fronts. The only problem you might experience is if you have a **textured fabric** that the glue can't adhere to. In those cases or if you don't want them to be permanent, you can put a few stitches in each one, or use fabric glue to hold it on. Patches probably won't stay on stretchy material such as socks or head bands unless you sew them on with a thread.
10. **IMPORTANT: Don't wash or dry the fabric that has patches glued onto it using extreme heat – hot water or an extremely hot dryer can soften the glue and cause the patches to come off the fabric. Wash on a warm or cool setting, and dry on a medium or lower setting – the higher the heat, the more likely it is that the patch will come off. After repeated washing and drying, the patches may come off. The best way to ensure this doesn't happen is to use a needle and thread to put a stitch in the patch that secures it to the fabric – that way the patch won't fall off and you can iron it back on.**

**To put patches on ball caps and similar items:** You will need to either use thread or a glue such as "Goop", which can be purchased at Home Depot and many stores; you will need to let the glue dry for as long as recommended (24 hours for Goop). Super Glue does NOT work well. NOTE that they may not stick easily to all items and it may be best to sew them on.

**Alternatives to putting patches on uniforms:** Some leagues prohibit any type of emblem on the uniforms. Teams in leagues that don't allow patches on uniforms still use SoccerHelp patches to motivate their players. **Here are some ideas for where to put patches:** On a practice T-Shirt, On a key-ring, On bags or back packs, On a ball cap, as described above, On a team banner near each player's name. There are many ideas on SoccerHelp.com.

**How can SoccerHelp patches be used to motivate players:** Think about what you want to achieve, and use the patches to motivate your players to achieve your objectives. There are many ideas on SoccerHelp.com