

Mrs. Dorothy Holland

For Clues to

Clothing Care...

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LABEL**

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FOR CLUES TO CLOTHING CARE

Fiber identification is an important clue to the use and care of modern fabrics. The Fiber Identification Act, effective March 3, 1960, requires that each textile fiber product, such as clothing, must carry a label which gives the generic (family) names and percentages by weight of the fibers in the product.

Each generic name designates a kind of fiber that differs in origin. The natural fibers--cotton, linen, silk and wool--are familiar but some of the manmade fibers have unfamiliar generic names.

Generic names are useful to the drycleaner and homemaker in the care of clothing. They are a clue to proper washing, drying and pressing temperatures, and to spot removal and storage.

Trade names exist for many manmade fibers. If a manufacturer uses a trade name he must pair it with the generic name. There are many more trade names than generic names. If the homemaker becomes familiar with the generic names of fibers, this will be her key to proper care.

Besides trade names for fibers there are trade names for yarn processes. One example of a trade name for the stretch process is Helanca; for the bulk process, Banlon; and for the textured effect process, Tycora.

Textile finishes may be identified by trade names. One example of a trade name for wash-and-wear finish is Regulated Cotton; for water-repellent, Cravenette; for stain-repellent, Scotchgard; and for shrinkage control, Sanforized.

Reliable manufacturers base performance claims and care recommendations on yarn construction, fabric weave or knit, textile finish, and finally on garment design and trim; in addition to the fiber content.

Look for performance and care information on the labels of fabrics by the yard as well as ready-wear when you look for the generic name of the fiber.

The following table lists all the generic names and examples of some fiber trade names now used in clothing. You will find other trade names on labels, but will have no trouble identifying them--since they will be paired with the correct generic name.

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAMES
Cotton	
Linen	
Rayon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cupioni Bemberg Fortisan Cordura Coloray Colorspun Jetspun
Silk	
Wool	
Rubber	Lastex
Spandex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lycra Vyrene
Acrylic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orlon Acrilan Creslan Zefran
Modacrylic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verel Dynel
Nytril	Darvan
Nylon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caprolan Nylenka
Polyester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dacron Teron Vycron Kodel
Acetate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celanese Estron Chromspun Colorsealed Celaperm
Triacetate	Arnel

READ YOUR FIBER LABEL

CLUES TO CARE

May be washed and ironed without special care. Avoid chlorine bleaches if resin finished unless the label says it is safe to use them.

Remove oily stains before washing resin finished fabrics; washing may set these stains permanently.

Rayon needs more careful handling when wet than cotton and linen.

Coloray, Colorspun and Jetspun are solution dyed rayons and highly resistant to fading.

Cool temperatures in washing and pressing prevent yellowing.

Do not expose to excessive sunlight or heat; to oils, fats or greases (lotions or creams).

Wash frequently to remove body oils.

Avoid constant overstretch, such as wearing the same girdle every day.

To prevent felting of wool, use low agitation in washing machine and avoid rubbing when wet.

Require low temperature in drying and pressing.

Water-borne stains can be wiped or washed off easily.

Remove oily stains before washing; washing may set these stains permanently.

Clothing requires little pressing; sweaters do not require blocking.

Moth and mildew-resistant.

Dynel is more sensitive to heat than the others.

Nylon is the strongest and most durable.

Kodel gives less problem in letting down a hem because the crease will not show.

Require low temperature in drying and pressing.

Water-borne stains can be wiped off easily.

Remove oily stains before washing; washing may set these stains permanently.

Dissolved by acetone, paint remover and fingernail polish remover.

Sensitive to fading from atmospheric gases.

Moth and mildew-resistant.

Chromspun, Colorsealed and Celaperm are solution dyed acetates--highly resistant to fading.

Arnel can take higher pressing temperatures than acetate.

A FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR BUYING FABRICS

1. Determine your needs:
What kind of garment do you need?
For what occasion is it to be used?
Is the style suited to the occasion?
Is the fabric texture and color suited to the style, occasion and you?
Is the hand or feel of the fabric suited to the style, season and you?
Is the weight of the fabric suited to the style, season and you?
2. Determine what you want:
Do properties of the fabric give durability, colorfastness, shape-retention, crispness or softness and cleanability?
What do you expect of the finish--crease retention, wrinkle resistance, water repellency, fire resistance, spot and stain resistance?
3. Determine your individual habits of use:
Personal standards are not the same for all individuals. A garment which "needs no ironing" for one person would require "touch-up ironing" or "complete ironing" for another. Do pajamas require the same immaculate "band-box" appearance as a dress or blouse?
4. Determine how you want to care for it:
Do you want it to be machine or hand washable?
Do you want it to be dry cleanable?
What are the problems in ironing or pressing?
5. Determine how long you want it to last:
What do you know about the service performance of the fabric?
What are the properties of the fiber that will give serviceability?
Do you need it to last long?
What kind of abuse will it get?

Portions of this publication were written by members of the Federal Extension Service, Washington, D.C.

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FABRIC FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- To know fabric requires knowledge of the characteristics, use and care of each fiber, or combination of fibers, used.
- Fabric performance depends as much on construction--type and firmness of weave--and on finish, as upon fiber content.
- No fiber is hot or cool in itself. Warmth or coolness depends principally on the air circulation designed into the fabric. Both warm and cool fabrics can be made of any fiber.
- There is no single all-purpose fiber, one that is best for all uses. Natural fibers are best for some purposes, the manmade ones have advantages for other uses, and often a blend of two or more fibers gives even better results.
- The percentage and way that manmade fibers are used in fabrics often determine performance in wear and laundering.
- Natural fibers and manmade fibers may be used in dress for all occasions. The color, texture, weight and hand of the fabric determine its use.
- All fabrics, including linings, interfacings, shoulder pads and trimmings, that go into a garment should have the same cleanability and wearability.