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NF00-420 Sewing with Tencel®

Rose Marie Tondl

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Sewing with Tencel®

Rose Marie Tondl, Extension Clothing Specialist

What is Tencel®? Tencel® is a trade name for a new generic fiber called lyocell. The fiber is made from natural cellulose wood pulp found in trees. Its properties are similar to rayon. Tencel® is comfortable, absorbent, has excellent drape and is easy care. It may be blended with other synthetic or natural fibers made into both knit and woven fabrics. This includes crepes, twills, chambrays and poplins. Depending on the finishes used, Tencel® can feel like cotton, silk or wool.

Patterns

Look for patterns that have a soft drape. Shirts, blouses, pants and pajamas are good choices.

Preshrink

Machine wash in warm water and dry on the permanent press cycle. The finished garment may be washed or dry cleaned.

Layout/Cutting

Use a "without nap" layout. Cut with sharp shears or a rotary cutter and mat.

Marking

Use fabric markers, tracing wheel and paper or snip at the notches. Test markers on fabric scraps.

Interfacing

Select an interfacing that is an appropriate weight for the fabric. Some fusibles may provide too much body. A sew-in may be best. Experiment with different samples.

Needles

Use the weight of the fabric as a guide when choosing the correct needle size and stitch length. For lightweight fabrics use a 65/9 to 75/11; for medium weight fabrics use a 70/10 to 80/12 or 90/14.

Sewing

Set the stitch length at 1.5 to 2 mm or 12 to 15 stitches per inch for lightweight fabric; for medium

weight fabric, set machine at 2 to 2.5 mm or 10 to 12 stitches per inch.

Seam Finishes

For plain seams, serge each seam allowance separately, make flat felled seams or select a suitable seam finish appropriate to the fabric.

Pressing

Set the steam iron at a medium heat.

Hemming

Finish the edge with a serger before turning up the hem and topstitch with a single or double needle.

File NF420 under TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND DESIGN

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