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## EC61-420 Clues to Clothing Care ... Read your Fiber Label

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## OILY STAINS ON RESIN FINISHED FABRICS

Oil or grease stains adhere to resin finished synthetic fabrics. These stains should be removed as soon as possible and before the garment is washed. The heat of washing, drying, or pressing will set the stain and make it difficult and sometimes impossible to remove.

To remove oil or grease stains, rub liquid detergent or a solution of water and dry detergent into the stained area. Rinse the area in cool water before washing. If the garment is to be dry-cleaned, sponge the stained area with a solvent, such as carbon tetrachloride. Rinse with solvent and repeat if necessary. CAUTION: Use chlorine bleach only if label suggests its use.

## FABRIC BLENDS

Two or more fibers or yarns may be combined to form fabric blends. Less favorable characteristics of one fiber may thus be overcome by the desirable properties of other fibers. For example, cotton wrinkles easily, but when blended in proper proportions with a polyester fiber, the fabric produced requires little or no ironing.

The percentage of each fiber in a textile product must be given on the label. From this information the shopper can, to an extent, determine performance or durability of the product and the care it will require. Special care instructions are often given on labels or hang tags. If no instructions are given, a safe procedure is to use the care demanded by the most sensitive fiber in the blend.

## FIBER LABELING REGULATIONS

### Wool Products Labeling Act (1939)

The Act requires wool products, except upholsteries and floor coverings, to be labeled as to amount of wool and other fibers present, the kind of wool (virgin, reused, reprocessed), and the manufacturer's name or registered number.

### Fur Products Labeling Act (1951)

The Act enables purchasers to be informed on labels, invoices, and in advertising as to the name of the animal from which the fur was taken, the country of its origin, the kind of fur (used, damaged, scrap) and if the fur has been dyed or bleached.

### Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (1960)

The purpose of the Act is to protect producers and consumers against misbranding and false advertising of fiber content of textile products. It covers articles of wearing apparel, draperies, floor coverings, furnishings, bedding and other household textile products.

The Act requires textile products to be labeled with the following information:

1. The fiber or fibers in the product, designated by generic name in order of predominance by weight if the weight is 5% or more of the total fiber weight.
2. The percentage of each fiber present by weight, in the total fiber content. Individual fibers in amounts of 5% or less by weight must be shown as "other fibers."
3. If an upholstered product, mattress or cushion, contains stuffing which previously has been used as stuffing, there must be a statement to this effect.
4. The name or other identification of the manufacturer of the product.
5. With certain exceptions, imported textile fiber products must be labeled to comply with regulations of the act and must name the country producing the product.

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Clues to  
Clothing Care.....

Read Your  
FIBER LABEL

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Extension Specialist

The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, effective March 1960, requires that fiber content be given on the labels of textile products. The fiber is listed according to generic (family) names. The percentages of each fiber, according to weight, must be given.

Today's consumers should become familiar with the generic groups of fibers, their basic characteristics and their common care requirements. Satisfaction received from textile products depends greatly on the consumer's knowledge of characteristics of the products and her ability to select according to her needs.

This circular contains:

1. Generic names of fiber groups.
2. Common trade names used by manufacturers. (These may change, be discontinued, or new ones may be added.)
3. Some basic characteristics of each generic group.
4. Some general care requirements for each generic group. (Read and save the labels for specific care instructions.)
5. Fiber labeling regulations with which every consumer should be familiar.

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GENERIC NAME	TRADE NAMES	CHARACTERISTICS	CARE
<b>NATURAL FIBERS</b>			
COTTON		Durable; special finishes may be applied; affected by mildew; blend with other fibers.	Washable unless labeled dry clean; withstand high temperatures. If resin-treated, follow instructions on label, avoid chlorine bleach, do not starch, remove oily stains before washing.
LINEN			
SILK		Durable; natural wrinkle resistance; special finishes may be applied; affected by perspiration; scorch easily; may be blended with other fibers. Silk may water spot. Wool may shrink or mat.	Dry clean unless labeled washable; use low to medium temperatures for pressing; avoid use of chlorine bleach; protect wool from moths unless treated.
WOOL			
<b>MAN-MADE FIBERS</b>			
ACETATE	(Celanese (Acele	Retain shape; moth and mildew resistant; subject to fume-fading unless treated; generate static electricity unless treated; heat sensitive; blend with other fibers.	Usually washable but follow instructions on label; remove oily stains before washing; use low temperatures for acetate -- higher temperatures for triacetate; soluble in acetone or paint remover.
TRIACETATE	(Estron (others (Arnel		
ACRYLIC	(Orlon (Acrilan	Durable; wash and wear properties; dry quickly; wrinkle resistant; moth and mildew resistant; crease and pleat retention; require little or no ironing; heat sensitive; generate static electricity unless treated; blend with other fibers.	Washable unless labeled dry clean; require low temperatures for washing, drying and pressing; remove oily stains before washing; bleach according to instructions on label; excess heat and insufficient rinsing cause yellowing.
MODACRYLIC	(Verel		
NYTRIL	(Darvan		
NYLON	(Cadon		
POLYESTER	(Antron (DuPont (Kodel (others (Dacron (Fortrel		
RAYON	(Bemberg (Enka	Strong when dry, loses strength when wet; special finishes may be applied; moth resistant; resistant to fading if solution-dyed; dries slowly; blends with other fibers.	Usually washable, but follow instructions on label; remove oily stains before washing; avoid chlorine bleach unless labeled otherwise; handle carefully when wet.
RUBBER	(Latex (Contro	High holding power, flexing may cause yarn breakage and loss of elasticity; may discolor from perspiration or laundering.	Wash often to remove body oils; avoid chlorine bleach; avoid exposure to heat, sunlight and oils; avoid constant overstretch by alternating wear.
SPANDEX	(Lycra (Vyrene	Lightweight; good flex life; resistant to perspiration, cosmetic oils, and lotions.	Wash often to remove body oils; avoid chlorine bleach; avoid constant overstretch.