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Read Fiber Labels for Clues to Better Clothing Care
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READ FIBER LABELS

*for clues to
better clothing care*

Fiber identification is an important clue to better care and use of modern fabrics. The *Textile Fiber Identification Act*, effective March 3, 1960, can help you with the selection and care of today's fabrics.

This regulation requires the identification of fiber content on wearing apparel, accessories, draperies, rugs, and bedding—whether made in the U.S. or imported. The percentage or amount of each fiber in the fabric must also be given.

You should become familiar with some new names to get the most benefit from this new law. The primary source of each fiber must be listed on the hang tag or label. This is called its *generic*, or family, name. Close to it you will find its trade name.

For example, you will see:

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAME
Rayon	<i>Bemberg</i>
Acrylic	<i>Orlon</i>
Polyester	<i>Dacron</i>

We are already familiar with the old standby generic or family names such as cotton, linen, silk, and wool. Labeling of wool has been required for some years.

The many other textile names on the market today and the promise of more tomorrow will be very confusing unless you become familiar with the newer generic or family names and then associate them with the trademark names.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Below is a list to help you. The trade names grouped under each generic or family name indicate fibers of similar characteristics. The following charts can serve as a guide for appropriate use and care of fabrics.

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAMES	USES
COTTON		{ Wearing apparel Household goods
LINEN		{ Wearing apparel Window treatments Household linens
RAYON	{ <i>Cupioni</i> <i>Bemberg</i> <i>Fortisan</i> <i>Cordura</i> <i>Coloray</i> <i>Jetspun</i> <i>Colorsapun</i>	{ Wearing apparel Curtains and draperies Linings

- ✓ Rayon needs careful handling in washing because it loses its strength when wet.
- ✓ Avoid using chlorine bleaches on resin-finished fabrics unless the label says it is safe to do so.
- ✓ Remove oily stains before washing resin-treated fabrics. *Coloray*, *Jetspun*, and *Colorsapun* are solution-dyed rayons and are highly resistant to fading.

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAMES	USES
SILK		Apparel, linings
WOOL		Apparel, blankets

- ✓ Use cool temperatures in washing and pressing to prevent yellowing.
- ✓ Use little agitation and avoid rubbing wool when wet to prevent felting and shrinkage.

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAMES	USES
RUBBER	<i>Lastex</i>	{ Foundation garments
SPANDEX	{ <i>Lycra</i> <i>Vyrene</i>	{ Surgical hose Swimwear

- ✓ Do not expose to excessive sunlight or heat; protect from oils, fats, and greases (lotions or creams).
- ✓ Wash frequently to remove body oils.
- ✓ Let garment rest after each wearing.

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAMES	USES
ACETATE	{ <i>Celanese</i> <i>Estron</i> <i>Chromspun</i> <i>Colorsealed</i> <i>Celaperm</i> }	Wearing apparel Lingerie
TRIACETATE		

- ✓ Acetate fabrics require low pressing temperatures. Triacetate can take a higher temperature.
- ✓ Water-borne stains can be easily removed.
- ✓ Remove oily stains before washing.
- ✓ These fibers are dissolved by paint remover and nail polish remover.
- ✓ *Celanese*, *Estron* and *Arnel* are sensitive to fading from atmospheric gases; *Chromspun*, *Colorsealed*, and *Celaperm* are highly resistant to fading.

GENERIC (FAMILY) NAME	TRADE NAMES	USES
ACRYLIC	{ <i>Orlon</i> <i>Acrilan</i> <i>Creslan</i> <i>Zefran</i> }	Knitted apparel Blankets, carpeting Fur-like fabrics
MODACRYLIC		{ <i>Verel</i> <i>Dynel</i> }
NYTRIL	{ <i>Darvan</i> }	Knits Fur-like fabrics
NYLON	{ <i>Nylon</i> <i>Caprolan</i> }	Wearing apparel Lingerie Outerwear in knits and woven fabrics
POLYESTER		{ <i>Dacron</i> <i>Teron</i> <i>Vycron</i> <i>Kodel</i> }

- ✓ These fibers require lower washing, drying, and pressing temperatures.
- ✓ Water-borne stains can be wiped or washed off easily.
- ✓ Oily stains are more difficult to remove. They should be pretreated and removed before washing.
- ✓ Fabrics from these fibers tend to keep their shape, require little pressing.
- ✓ They are moth and mildew resistant.

MORE ABOUT LABELS

Remember that many of these fibers are used in blends. The percentage of each fiber must be listed on the label. For example, a man's shirt may be labelled 65% Dacron and 35% cotton. Because of the high percentage of Dacron, you would handle the fabric at the lower temperatures required for Dacron, and pretreat oily, stained areas, such as the collar, before washing. Also you would know that the shirt should keep its shape and require less ironing.

Each different part of an article must be labeled for fiber content. The label on a fur-like fabric might read: 100% nylon pile, 100% cotton back. A jacket label might read: 100% nylon; Interlining, 100% rayon.

How will yard goods be labeled?

Although every few yards of fabric cannot be labeled, the bolt will be clearly labeled. As you buy fabric by the yard, jot down the fiber content and any other useful information.

Suppose you buy a remnant?

According to the law, *remnants don't have to be labeled as to fiber content*. If not labeled, there will be some indication on the remnant or near the counter which says—"Remnants of an undetermined fiber content."

If a very small amount of one fiber is used with one or more other fibers, will the percentage be given?

Five percent or less of a fiber does not have to be identified but the label must read "other fiber."

Should you look for any other information?

Yes, because fiber content is just one clue for you. Besides trade names for fibers there are trade names for yarn processes, dye processes, and also textile finishes such as crease resistant wash-and-wear, water repellent, and shrinkage-controlled finishes.

Many manufacturers give specific instructions for care. These are your best guides.

Look for Performance and Care Information as Well as the Fiber Content and SAVE THOSE HANG TAGS

Your clues to better care will be lost unless you save hang tags. Write a description of the garment or article on the tag. Then file it for ready reference just as you file a recipe. It will be handy at laundry or dry cleaning time.