



Designation: D3050 – 07 (Reapproved 2024)

Standard Guide for Measuring Soil Removal from Artificially Soiled Fabrics (Not Suitable for Detergent Ranking)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3050; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This is a guide for measuring the ability of detergents to remove artificially applied soils from fabrics. It is intended as a laboratory screening test to aid in the formulation of detergent products, for quality control and as a basis between the purchaser and seller in standardizing specific products' performance.

1.2 The relative ranking of detergent products will vary greatly depending on the type of soiled fabrics used in the test. Therefore, selection of the standard soiled fabric to be used in a test shall be made by agreement between the interested parties on the basis of experience.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

[D2960 Guide for Controlled Laundering Test Using Naturally Soiled Fabrics and Household Appliances \(Withdrawn 2013\)](#)³

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D12 on Soaps and Other Detergents and is the responsibility of Subcommittee D12.15 on Physical Testing.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3. Summary of Guide

3.1 Soiled fabric swatches are washed in a laboratory washer using the products being tested and the change in reflectance is measured.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The guide, as now constituted, is not suitable for ranking of detergent products since no basis is available at this time for correlation of the detergency performance of any particular soiled cloth or clothes with detergency of naturally soiled articles.

4.2 A suggested procedure for comparing the performance of any two laundry detergents on naturally soiled family items in home laundry equipment under controlled conditions on a paired comparison basis is described in Method [D2960](#).

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Laboratory Washer*—A laboratory scale agitator-type washing machine.⁴

5.2 *Reflectometer*, calibrated by means of standard vitreous enamel plaques having reflectances in the range of the fabric or swatch samples being measured.

6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁵ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

⁴ The Terg-o-tometer, obtainable from the United States Testing Co., 1415 Park Ave., Hoboken, NJ, or its equivalent, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁵ *ACS Reagent Chemicals, Specifications and Procedures for Reagents and Standard-Grade Reference Materials*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.