



Designation: D 3136 – 00

Standard Terminology Relating to Care Labeling for Apparel, Textile, Home Furnishing, and Leather Products¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology provides a uniform language for the disclosure of care instructions on labels that are to be attached to apparel, textile, home furnishing, and leather products.

1.2 In the United States, apparel care labels must be attached permanently except when exempted by Federal Trade Commission regulation (see section 2.2).

1.3 These definitions and descriptions employ common meanings used not only by textile technologists but by consumers.

1.4 These instructions may apply to some accessory products.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

2.2 *Other Standard:*

Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, and Certain Piece Goods Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 99, May 20, 1983³

2.3 *AATCC Standard:*

AATCC Technical Manual 1985 Standardization of Home Laundry Test Conditions in AATCC Test Methods⁴

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The standardized terminology should be used on the label in a logical refurbishing sequence, in order to disclose maximum information in a small label space and to help the consumer understand recommended practices.

3.2 Preliminary instructions may be necessary for proper care of certain products (See Table 1, Preliminary Instructions).

3.3 The wording on a care label should be brief. Manufacturers are encouraged to place more detailed explanations in or

on package covers, or in some temporary form of communication such as a sticker or hangtag. The terms used should be consistent with those used on care labels.

3.4 The word “only” in any term limits that portion of the procedure to the stated instruction.

3.5 A care instruction for a product is applicable to all components of the product including nonremovable linings, trim, and other details. Any exceptions should be a part of the labeled instruction. An intentionally removable component, such as a zip-out liner, is expected to be separately labeled when it must be cared for differently from the garment itself, or when there could be serious doubt about what procedure to use (See Federal Trade Commission Trade Regulation Rule).

3.6 Laundering temperatures are maximum and vary widely in national and international practice (See Table 2). Consumers may obtain water temperatures in their washing machines which are frequently below and sometimes higher than the stated maximum temperature. The actual water temperature obtained when using the washing machine settings of hot, warm, and cold vary in North America by region, season, water heater settings (including solar), and regulations governing factory-set mixes. In general, North American washing machines do not have internal heaters.

4. Terminology

4.1 *Definitions:*

bleach, *n—in care of textiles*, a product for brightening and aiding the removal of soils and stains from textile materials by oxidation that is inclusive of both chlorine and non-chlorine products

care instructions, *n—in textiles*, a series of directions that describes practices which should refurbish a product without adverse effects and warn against any part of the directions which one could reasonably be expected to use that may harm the item.

care label, *n—in textiles*, a label or other affixed instructions that report how a product should be refurbished.

DISCUSSION—The Federal Trade Commission, in Rule 16 CFR 423, requires care instructions on most apparel and certain other textile items. In relation to these products, the FTC definition states: “Care Label means a permanent label or tag, containing regular care information and instructions, that is attached or affixed in some manner that

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

³ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office, North Capital and H. Streets NW, Washington, DC 20401.

⁴ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

TABLE 2 Laundering Water Temperatures in Common Use^A

Term	ASTM ISO ^B	FTC	AATCC ^C	Canada
...	95°C (200°F)			
...	70°C (160°F)			
Very Hot	60°C (140°F)		60°C (140°F)	
Hot	50°C (120°F)	66°C (150°F)	49°C (120°F)	70°C (160°F)
Warm	40°C (105°F)	32° to 43°C (90° to 110°F)	41°C (105°F)	50°C (120°F)
Lukewarm				40°C (105°F)
Cool				30°C (85°F)
Cold	30°C (85°F)	29°C (85°F)	27°C (80°F)	
Very Cold			16°C (60°F)	

^AThe laundering temperatures in Table 2 are maximum.

^BThe ISO standard, "ISO 3758 textiles-Care labeling code using symbols," does not associate the terms hot, warm, and cold with water temperatures for laundering. The ISO washing symbols provide maximum water temperature options of 95°C, 70°C, 60°C, 50°C, 40°C, and 30°C in Celsius only. The Guide D 5489 requires as a minimum the laundering water temperatures reported within the washtub symbol either in degree Celsius or by using a dot system. The water temperature may also be reported in degrees Fahrenheit.

^CThe AATCC temperatures are test temperatures for home laundering, whereas the FTC and Canada temperatures are meant to reflect the upper end of temperatures in actual use, including temperatures used in commercial laundering.

will not become separated from the product and will remain legible during the useful life of the product."

care procedure, *n*—*in textiles*, one or more refurbishing methods to which products may be subjected for soil and stain removal and aesthetic improvement such as appearance restoration or hand.

DISCUSSION—The process employs appropriate equipment, materials and processes, and may include but need not be limited to the following: water or drycleaning solvent, detergent or soap, foam, absorption (powder) type compounds, bleach, agitation, drying, pressing or ironing.

chlorine bleach, *n*—a bleach that releases the hypochlorite ion in solution, for example, sodium hypochlorite.

cleaning agent, *n*—a chemical compound or formulation of several compounds which loosens, disperses, dissolves, or emulsifies soil to facilitate removal by mechanical action.

commercial laundering, *n*—a process by which textile products or specimens may be washed, bleached, rinsed, dried, and pressed typically at higher temperatures, higher pH, and longer times than used for home laundering.

consumer care, *n*—*of consumer textile products*, cleaning and maintenance procedures as customarily undertaken by the ultimate user.

consumer textile product, *n*—a textile item intended to satisfy human wants and needs.

DISCUSSION—Consumer textile products include such products as apparel, curtains, draperies, piece goods, sheets, slipcovers, table linens, towels, trims, yarns, zippers, and findings. The component parts of consumer textile products may include such other materials as suede, leather and fur.

detergent, *n*—*in textile product care*, a cleaning agent containing one or more surfactants as the active ingredient(s).

DISCUSSION—In popular usage, washing and cleaning agents with a composition other than soap that clean by much the same mechanism as does soap. The term detergent is used to describe both the basic surface active agents and finished products. The finished product may contain additional ingredients such as builders, antiredeposition agents, corrosion inhibitors, suds control agents, fluorescent whitening agents, etc.

drycleaning, *n*—*in the care of textiles*, the cleaning of consumer textile products with organic solvents such as a

petroleum solvent or perchloroethylene.

DISCUSSION—The process may include moisture addition to solvent up to 75% relative humidity, a detergent addition hot tumble drying up to 70°C (160°F) and restoration by steam or steam air finishing.

hand washing, *n*—the most gentle form of home laundering using hand manipulation without the use of a machine or device such as a scrubbing board.

home laundering, *n*—a process by which textile products or parts thereof may be washed, bleached, dried, and pressed by any customary method designed for use in a residence, or non-professional use. (See also **professional care**).

ironing, *n*—a method of pressing using a heated hand iron, sometimes together with moisture or steam, and a gliding motion.

laundering, *n*—*in textile product care*, a process intended to remove soil or stains by treatment (washing) with an aqueous detergent solution (and possibly bleach) and normally including subsequent rinsing, extracting, and drying.

non-chlorine bleach, *n*—a bleach that does not release the hypochlorite ion in solution, for example, sodium perborate, sodium percarbonate.

permanent care label, *n*—as applied to textile products, a care label that remains legible and attached to a textile product throughout its useful life.

pressing, *n*—*in the care of textiles*, a process of smoothing and shaping by heat and pressure, with or without the presence of steam.

DISCUSSION—Pressing may be done with a hand iron or with a utility press such as used by commercial laundries and drycleaners.

professional care, *n*—*for textile products*, cleaning and maintenance procedures requiring the services of a person specially trained or skilled in their use.

refurbish, *n*—*as applied to textile products*, to brighten or freshen up and restore to wearability or use by cleaning such as drycleaning, laundering, or steam cleaning.

soap, *n*—a cleaning agent usually consisting of sodium or potassium salts of fatty acids.

solvent relative humidity, *n*—the humidity of air over a drycleaning bath and in equilibrium with the solvent and its small amount of water.