



Designation: D5548 – 05^{ε2}

Standard Guide for Evaluating Color Transfer or Color Loss of Dyed Fabrics in Laundering (Not Suitable for Detergent or Washing Machine Rankings)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5548; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—The title was corrected editorially in April 2007.

^{ε2} NOTE—Reference to Direct Blue 7 in 5.3.2 and 6.3 was corrected to Direct Blue 71 in July 2011.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers the evaluation of the effect of dyestuff color transfer or color loss from dyed fabrics. It is designed as a laboratory screening test to aid in the formulation of detergent products or the comparison of two or more detergents.

1.2 There is no single assessment that will give the overall performance of a laundry product. A single test can only suggest how a formulation performs under the particular conditions chosen for the evaluation and cannot be expected to reflect comparative product performance under the many other possible conditions of use. A series of assessments is always necessary in order to evaluate the many aspects of product performance. It is necessary to conduct confirming tests under controlled but practical home-laundering conditions to simulate consumer experience.

1.3 The values stated in either inch-pound or SI units are to be regarded separately as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[D459 Terminology Relating to Soaps and Other Detergents](#)

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D12 on Soaps and Other Detergents and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D12.25 on Consumer Standards.

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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.

[D1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)

[E179 Guide for Selection of Geometric Conditions for Measurement of Reflection and Transmission Properties of Materials](#)

[E1347 Test Method for Color and Color-Difference Measurement by Tristimulus Colorimetry](#)

2.2 *AATCC Methods*:

[Evaluation Procedure 6 Instrumental Color Measurement](#)³

[Evaluation Procedure 7 Instrumental Assessment of the Change in Color of a Test Specimen](#)³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 See Terminology [D459](#).

3.1.2 *laundering, n*—a process intended to remove soils or stains, or both, by treatment (washing) with an aqueous detergent solution and normally including subsequent rinsing, extraction, and drying.

3.1.3 *rinse, v or n*—a process or treatment in an aqueous medium for the purpose of removing extraneous matter from textile materials.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 Three fabrics are chosen that exhibit varying degrees of color loss or transfer. A nylon fabric is dyed with a heavy concentration of a red dye that will exhibit the greatest amount of color loss or transfer. Two cotton fabrics are dyed with blue dyes, which provide a light and intermediate level of color loss and transfer. A bleached undyed cotton fabric is washed in the same bucket as the dyed fabrics to act as a receptacle for the fugitive dyestuff.

4.2 The evaluation is performed in a laboratory washer under standardized conditions. It is possible to rank one or more detergents using instrumental readings and determining the ΔE values.

³ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.