

CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

**WOVENS
AND KNITS**

 **WESTEX**
DH

 **WESTEX**
DH Air™

Home Care Guidelines

Garments made with Westex® DH or Westex DH Air™ can be laundered at home using conventional home washing and drying methods with wash temperatures at or below 140°F, followed by hand ironing on medium setting if necessary. No special technology is needed. However, home procedures may not remove the last traces of very heavy, widespread or ground-in soils, which may be flammable and could adversely acetate thermal protective performance of garments. If home laundering does not remove such build-up, garments can be commercially laundered. When garments are contaminated by hazardous materials, only commercial laundering should be used, along with the appropriate wastewater treatment techniques.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR OPTIMUM CLEANING:



Load Size

When laundering garments made with Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics, it is important not to overload the machine. To ensure a cleaner wash and avoid setting wash wrinkles, the load size must permit clothes to move freely through the wash water and rinse cycle. Regardless of the machine's rated capacity in pounds, bulk—not weight—should be the limiting factor.



Sorting

Garments of Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics should be sorted and washed separately from other garments to prevent contamination with lint of flammable fibers.



Pre-Treating

Stains, as well as deep soil lines on the collars and cuffs of garments, are more readily removed if pre-treated. Stains should be pre-treated at the earliest opportunity. Allow sufficient time for the pre-treatment material to penetrate and loosen the soil. The heavily soiled or stained areas should be rubbed with a full-strength, heavy-duty liquid detergent or any off-the-shelf laundry pre-treatment product. Do not use detergents containing chlorine bleach.



Garment Preparation

Before laundering garments of Westex DH or Westex DH Air, pockets should be emptied, cuffs cleaned out and zippers closed.



Wash Water Temperature

Moderate soil levels may be removed adequately at normal wash water temperature settings. Heavily soiled and stained garments require a higher wash temperature setting. A maximum wash temperature of 140°F is recommended for best durability and appearance on our woven Westex DH and Westex DH Air products. For Westex DH knits, it is recommended that garments be home-laundered on a cold setting (80°F).



Detergents

Synthetic, heavy-duty liquid laundry detergents are recommended for washing. These products do a superior job of removing soils and are less likely than soap to form sticky deposits of lime soap curds, which are difficult to rinse out. Fatty-based soaps should not be used. Underuse of detergent results in poor soil removal and frequently causes suspended soils to redeposit on the clothes. Failure to use a sufficient amount of detergent is the single greatest cause of inadequate home cleaning. Do not use detergents containing chlorine bleach. Do not use starches, fabric softeners or any other laundry additives.



Water

For best results, an adequate supply of “soft” water is required for home laundering garments of Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics. Hard water contains minerals, such as calcium and magnesium salts, that combine with fatty-based soaps to form insoluble films. These insoluble contaminants are difficult to rinse from fabrics, may be flammable and could adversely affect the thermal protective performance of garments if not adequately removed. Soap is not recommended, but if it is used in hard wash water (more than approximately 7 grains-per-gallon or 120 parts-per-million), a non-precipitating type water conditioner should be added. Softening the water reduces soap consumption and improves the quality of washing.



Bleaches

Only oxygen-based bleaches should be used on garments made with Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics. Chlorine bleach should not be used. Although chlorine bleach will not affect the flame-resistant properties of the fabric, it may cause strength and color loss in garments over time. In general, the use of bleach is NOT recommended for Westex DH or Westex DH Air garments as overuse can degrade the fabric.



Tumble Drying

Garments made with Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics will have a smoother appearance when tumble-dried instead of being line or drip-dried. To ensure maximum removal of wrinkles, tumble dryers should not be overloaded. Drying time varies with the nature and size of the load. Garments made with Westex DH or Westex DH Air may dry faster than all-cotton garments of the same weight.

Knit garment drying time should be carefully controlled so that garments are removed from the dryer immediately when dry. Overdrying will result in excessive shrinkage. Drying times will vary depending on the load size and the relative weight of the garments being dried. Use of the “Knit” or “Gentle” setting on the dryer provides a beneficial cool down cycle.



Ironing

If garments made with Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics need touch-up pressing, a steam or dry iron may be used at the low setting.

Additional General Guidelines for Industrial Laundry

Although it is recommended that Westex DH or Westex DH Air woven fabrics be laundered at or below 140°F, it may be necessary to use a commercial laundry to remove hazardous material contaminants. Westex DH or Westex DH Air fabrics maintain their FR performance for the useful life of the garment when washed according to care instructions. During commercial and industrial laundering, it is recommended to wash garments according to the NFPA® 2112 guidelines at a maximum wash temperature of 150°F. A 140°F maximum wash temperature is recommended for best durability, colorfastness and garment appearance. Wash FR garments separately from other garments. Use the correct water level for the load and do not overload the machine. When drying, do not overdry the garment. Do not use starch.

Industrial laundering is generally not recommended for garments constructed of Westex DH knit and fleece fabrics. However, there may be conditions that may be adequate for industrial processing of Westex DH knit and fleece fabrics. Westex should be consulted by the processor and processor’s chemical supplier(s) on a case-by-case basis.

Garment Repair and Replacement

Flame-resistant garments must be repaired with the same flame-resistant components, including flame-resistant thread. Should a garment become torn, ripped or in need of mending, do not attempt to mend at home or with a local alterations person unless Westex DH or Westex DH Air repair materials and flame-resistant thread are used.



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