

CARE, MAINTENANCE AND USE GUIDE

DENIM

Commercial Laundering

Although it is recommended that Westex Indigo® woven fabrics be laundered at or below 140°F, it may be necessary to use a commercial laundry to remove hazardous material contaminants. Westex Indigo fabrics maintain their FR performance for the useful life of the garment when washed according to care instructions. During commercial/ industrial laundering, it is recommended to wash garments at a maximum wash temperature of 150°F. For best durability, colorfastness and garment appearance, a lower wash temperature (140°F or below) is recommended. 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 over-dry the garment. Do not use starch.

Home Laundering

Garments made with Westex Indigo 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. For optimum color retention, it is recommended that garments are home laundered on a cold setting and turned inside out. Home procedures may not remove the last traces of very heavy, widespread or ground-in soils, which may be flammable and could adversely affect thermal protective performance of garments. If home laundering does not remove 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.

DETERGENTS AND OTHER LAUNDRY PRODUCTS



Washing Detergent Supplies

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. Under-use 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 and peroxide bleach. Do not use starches, fabric softeners or any other laundry additives.



Use of Softened Water

For best results, an adequate supply of “soft” water is required for home laundering garments of Westex Indigo 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 of water conditioner should be added. Softening the water reduces soap consumption and improves the quality of washing.

DETERGENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL CHEMICALS TO AVOID



Bleaches

Oxygen-based and chlorine bleach should not be used.

RECOMMENDED WASHING/DRYING PROCEDURES



Sorting

Garments made of Westex Indigo 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 and allowed 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 or peroxide bleach.



Load Size

When laundering garments made with Westex Indigo 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.



Wash 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 of our woven Westex Indigo products. For optimized color retention, it is recommended that garments be home laundered on a cold setting.



Tumble Drying

Garments made with Westex Indigo 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.

RECOMMENDED WASHING/DRYING PROCEDURES



Ironing

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



Garment Preparation

Before laundering garments made of Westex Indigo, pockets should be emptied, cuffs cleaned out and zippers closed.

Garment Maintenance



Repair

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 Indigo repair materials and flame-resistant thread are used.



Dry Cleaning

When necessary or desired, dry cleaning of Westex Indigo garments is permissible.



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