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## A care tag for textiles

### Why a textile care tag?

People who use textile goods cannot always be expected to know the best way to look after them, even when a garment or fabric is supplied with a label describing the nature of the fibres used. Consequently the Société de la Viscose Suisse con-

sidered it high time to introduce a tag for the care of textiles, so as to inform the consumer briefly concerning the best way to go about looking after his new garment and thus protect it from possible damage.

### Table of the main textile fibres

#### NATURAL FIBRES

Vegetable fibres	Animal fibres	Mineral fibres
cotton kapok linen hemp jute ramie sisal coir	sheep's wool mohair camel hair alpaca horsehair natural silk wild silk (tussore)	glass asbestos

#### CHEMICAL FIBRES

##### Fibres of regenerated material

Cellulose fibres	Albumin fibres
Viscose copper (Bemberg) polynosic acetate arnel trichel	ardil

##### Synthetic fibres

Polyester fibres	Polyamide fibres	Polyvinyl Chloride fibres	Polyacrylic fibres	Polyurethan fibres
terylene dacron tergal terital terlenka trevira diolene	nylon nylsuisse perlon grilon bodanyl enkalon lilion rilsan	rhovil thermovil saran movil	orlon acrilan dralon crylor	lycra vyrene

### What will this new tag be like?

The textile care tag is an internationally standardized tag; the texts — which it would be impractical to print in several languages — are replaced by symbols. These symbols refer

to the four operations that textiles are regularly subjected to and indicate within what limits the operations may be carried out without harming the fabric.

#### Washing



#### Bleaching



#### Ironing



#### Chemical cleaning



## Significance of the symbols

### Washing:

For washing, 4 different possibilities are envisaged:

Washing by boiling



Washing in warm water, coloured articles



Fine washing



Will not stand washing



### Washing by boiling:

In this group are included all white or fast-coloured articles that can stand high temperatures, as for instance cotton and linen articles such as table-linen, face towels, kitchen cloths, bed-linen, bath towels, handkerchiefs, lingerie, men's shirts in fast colours, blouses and pyjamas, white overalls, babies' nappies, etc.

### Washing in warm water, coloured linen:

This group includes all the white and coloured articles that must not be boiled, but which can be washed in warm water, i.e. rayon and staple fibre lingerie, coloured aprons, washable dresses, sports shirts, blouses, pyjamas, etc. in cotton.

### Fine washing:

This group comprises all the fine and delicate textiles (white, dyed and printed) which, owing to the nature of their fibre, their finish or the way in which they have been worked, must be treated carefully, that is to say washed in lukewarm water with great care. Under this heading come mainly pullovers, gloves, socks, woollen layette articles; silk blouses and scarves; dresses, shirts, underwear and night attire, corsets, stockings, etc. in chemical fibres.

Washing machines may only be used for these articles if they are equipped with a setting for washing delicate articles, that is to say provided they are no harder on the clothes than gentle washing by hand.

### General:

When washing, separate the white articles from the coloured. Delicate lingerie must not be left to soak, coloured articles which can stand washing in warm water must be soaked only a short time in lukewarm water and articles suitable for boiling may be left to soak for several hours.

For fine lingerie, use only special products for washing delicate articles, for clothes capable of being washed in warm water, capable of being boiled or for coloured articles, use universal washing products. For fine coloured articles as well as coloured articles that can be washed in warm water, use only washing products free from optical bleaching agents.

Rinse all linen thoroughly in lukewarm water, then in cold. Fine washing must never be wrung or passed through the

mangle; squeeze it lightly by hand only. Coloured linen and linen suitable for washing in warm water or being boiled can be dried in a spin-drier, passed through the mangle or wrung. Dry fine washing by rolling it in absorbent towels and/or hanging it up. Woollen jersey tricot must first be rolled in absorbent towels, then laid out, shaped and left to dry flat. To prevent creasing, hang synthetic fibre articles on plastic hangers, pulling them gently into shape. Fine articles and coloured articles capable of being washed in warm water should never be hung in the sun or near a heater.

Textiles with a special finish must be washed according to special instructions.

### Bleaching:

For bleaching, only one treatment is considered. The symbol simply indicates that the fabric is resistant to a cold chlorinated bleaching bath. If the symbol is crossed out, chlorinated products must not be used (potassium chloride water) either for washing or for removing stains.



### Ironing:

For ironing, 4 possibilities are considered. Each possibility corresponds to a setting on an adjustable iron.

Cotton / Linen



Nylon<sup>1</sup>



Silk / Wool / Rayon / Staple fibre



Not to be ironed



<sup>1</sup> Nylon articles such as shirts, blouses and aprons in NYLSUISSE, etc. can be ironed by hand but it is not indispensable (hang up to dry while still wet).

### Chemical cleaning:

The symbol tells the cleaners what solvents to use, what degree of mechanical strain the article can stand and the drying temperature. The four symbols signify:

Cleaning with any solvent



Cleaning with benzine type hydrocarbons



Cleaning with perchlorethylene



Not to be chemically cleaned



## The care tag in practice

The textile care tag is supplied not only with made-up articles but also for fabrics by the yard. The determination of the degree of care required is based on detailed analyses comprising also, in the case of made-up articles, an examination of the

accessories used such as sewing thread, buttons, zipfasteners, braid, lining, etc.

Ski trousers in elasticized Helanca NYLSUISSE and wool will for example bear a tag marked as follows:



This tag means that the elasticized ski-pants must be washed like fine linen, that they must not be bleached, that the adjustable iron must be set to position 1 and that chemical cleaning can be carried out with any solvent.

Naturally, every manufacturer is free to combine the textile care tag with a trademark if he wishes. The maker-up will avail himself of this possibility especially when the trademark, such as for example NYLSUISSE, Helanca, Terylene, Lancofil,

Sanfor, etc. is widely known through good publicity and its guarantee of impeccable quality.

To start with, difficulties are bound to arise in the use of the new textile care tag. The experience met with abroad however shows that the practical value of such tags is rapidly appreciated and that manufacturers, tradesmen and consumers who have become accustomed to them would never willingly be without them again.

The purpose of the symbols shown here (registered in all countries) is to provide a simple and clear means of telling consumers how to look after different fabrics. The « Swiss Association for the Promotion of a textile Care Tag » (Utoquai 37, Zurich 8), holder of the license for the use of these symbols, is authorized to grant sub-licences; its aim is to introduce into Switzerland the standardized use of easily understood symbols established according to general rules in keeping with the efforts undertaken on the international level.