



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

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3136; 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 term “dry cleaning” was added editorially in September 2016.

1. Scope

1.1 This standard is a compilation of terminology developed by Subcommittee D13.62 on Labeling that is related to refurbishing and labeling for apparel, textile, home furnishing, and leather products other than upholstered furniture and floor coverings.

1.2 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 according to the Federal Trade Commission’s regulation 16 CFR, Part 423 (See 2.3).

1.3 These terms, definitions and descriptions employ common meanings for the care instructions required to be on textile products sold in the U.S.

1.4 This terminology is unique to the care of textile and leather products as the meanings are often expressed in phrases for care processes related to home-type washers, dryers, drying techniques and those for professional care.

1.5 For definitions of other textile terms, see Terminology D123.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D1230 Test Method for Flammability of Apparel Textiles

D5489 Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.62 on Labeling.

Current edition approved May 15, 2014. Published June 2014. Originally approved in 1972. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as D3136 – 13^{ε1}. DOI: 10.1520/D3136-14E01.

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.

2.2 *AATCC Standard*:³

AATCC Technical Manual, Monograph M6 Standardization of Home Laundry Test Conditions, current edition

2.3 *Federal Document*:⁴

16 CFR, Part 423 Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, and Certain Piece Goods, current amendment published

3. Terminology

3.1 *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 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.

³ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), One Davis Dr., P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2215, www.aatcc.org.

⁴ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, www.gpo.gov

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 textile products, a cleaning process using solvents such as perchloroethylene, a petroleum, or silicone.

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

dry cleaning, *n*—the cleaning of samples in a commercial dry cleaning machine. **D1230**

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.

DISCUSSION—Every drycleaning solvent bath containing detergent can require a different absolute water content to reach the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) specified level of solvent relative humidity for a normal drycleaning. The actual solvent relative humidity in the air over a solvent must be measured by a hygrometer after equilibrium has been reached between the water content of air and the solvent.

stripper, *n*—in textiles, a product, usually a reducing agent, that changes the coloring material, dye, or soil stain to reduced color.

DISCUSSION—Stripper is sometimes referred to as a “reducing bleach” as opposed to the conventional oxidizing bleach.

spot and stain removal, *n*—a cleaning procedure for localized areas with cleaning agents and mechanical action specific to the removal of the foreign substances present.

tag, *n*—a paper item, such as a ticket or a slip, which is marked to provide information to the consumer at the time of purchase, and which is permanently affixed to the product.

3.2 *Other Definitions*—For the definitions of other textile terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology **D123**.

4. Label Terms and Detailed Instructions for Apparel, Draperies, Slipcovers, Linens, Yarn, and Piece Goods

4.1 See **Table 1** for a listing of label terms and the detailed instructions that apply to them.

5. Keywords

5.1 apparel; care label; curtains; drapery; knitted fabric; linens; sheeting; slip covers; table cloth; terminology; towel-ing; upholstery; woven fabric; yarn

TABLE 1 Label Terms and Detailed Instructions

Label Term	Detailed Instructions
<i>Preliminary Instructions</i>	
Remove ... before	Component may not be cleaned or may be cared for differently or separately than the product itself; assumes component can be removed.
Close fasteners	Self explanatory. Action protects zippers and hook and loop tapes from damage or protects the garment from damage by the zipper and hook and loop tape.
Inside-out	Turn garment inside-out before cleaning to protect the face of fabric.
With like colors	Clean with colors of similar hue and shade depth.
Separately	Clean product by itself.
Before use	Clean before first use.
<i>Home Laundering</i>	
Machine wash	Use any home-type or coin-operated washing machine following the manufacturer's instructions as appropriate for the product.
Hot	Set water temperature control on washer to use hot water directly from the hot water supply, maximum temperature 50°C (120°F)
Warm	Set water temperature control on washer to use warm water, maximum 40°C (105°F) .
Cold	Set water temperature control on washer to use cold water directly from cold water supply, maximum temperature 30°C (85°F).
Small load	Use smaller than normal load of products based on manufacturer's instructions.
Delicate or gentle cycle	Set machine to give slow agitation, slow spin, and reduced time.
Durable-press cycle or Permanent-press cycle	Use a cool-down rinse or cold rinse before reduced spinning.
Bleach when needed	Any household laundry bleach may be used when necessary.
Only non-chlorine bleach when needed	Use non-chlorine bleach only when necessary. Chlorine bleach may not be used.
Do not bleach	No bleaches may be used.
Warm rinse	Set water temperature control on washer to use warm rinse water, maximum temperature 40°C (105°F).
Cold rinse	Set water temperature control on washer to use cold rinse water directly from cold water supply, maximum temperature 30°C (85°F).
Rinse twice	Rinse at least two times to remove detergent, soap, and bleach.
Do not add fabric softener	No fabric softener may be used.
Do not spin	Remove material prior to start of final spin cycle.
Do not wring	Do not use roller wringer. Do not wring by hand.
Hand wash	Manually remove soil from products or specimen by gently squeezing them in a water solution of detergent or soap.
Dry promptly	Remove promptly after washing is complete and dry.
Do not allow to sit wet after washing	Color transfer may occur if items sit wet after washing.
Do not wash	Self-explanatory. Item may not be washed.
Damp wipe only	Surface clean with damp cloth or sponge.
Do not commercially launder	Do not employ a laundry which uses special formulations, sour rinses, extremely large loads or extremely high temperatures or which otherwise is employed for commercial, industrial or institutional use. Employ laundering methods designed for residential use or use in a self-service establishment.
<i>Drying, All Methods</i>	
Tumble dry	Use machine dryer.
Hot—high	Set dryer at high temperature.
—medium	Set dryer at medium temperature.
—low	Set dryer at low temperature.
Durable-press or permanent press	Set dryer at durable (permanent) press setting.
No heat or air fluff only	Set dryer to operate without heat.
Remove promptly	When items are dry, remove immediately to prevent wrinkling.
Drip dry	Hang dripping wet without twisting, wringing, or spinning, and without hand shaping and smoothing.
Line dry	Hang damp after twisting, wringing, spinning or squeezing by hand.
Dry flat	Lay out horizontally for drying.
Dry in shade	Dry away from the sun.
Block to dry	By hand while wet, reshape to original dimensions.
Smooth by hand	By hand while wet, remove wrinkles, straighten seams and facings.
Reshape and dry flat	By hand while wet, reshape to original dimensions.
<i>Ironing and Pressing</i>	
Iron, high	Use high temperature setting.
Iron, medium	Use medium temperature setting.
Iron on lowest setting	Use lowest temperature setting.
Do not iron	Item not to be smoothed or finished with an iron.
Iron reverse side only	Turn article inside out for ironing or pressing.
Do not steam	Do not use steam in any form.
Steam only	Use steam without contact pressure.
Steam iron	Use iron containing water at steam setting.
Press	Commercial utility press may be used.
Iron damp	Moisten articles before ironing.
Use press cloth	Place either a dry or a damp cloth between the iron and the fabric.
Do not iron decoration	Avoid ironing decoration applied to textile product.

TABLE 1 Continued

Label Term	Detailed Instructions
<i>Drycleaning, All Methods</i>	
Professionally dryclean	Use the drycleaning process but modified to aid in optimizing results either by a drycleaning attendant or through the use of a drycleaning machine which permits such modifications or both. Such modifications or special warnings must be included in the care instruction.
Petroleum, Fluorocarbon or Perchloroethylene	Employ solvent(s) specified to dryclean the item.
Short cycle	Use reduced or minimum cleaning time, the exact time to depend upon solvent used.
Minimum extraction	Use least possible extraction time.
Reduced moisture	Use decreased solvent relative humidity (S.R.H.). The decreased S.R.H. should be measured in the final stages of the drycleaning wash procedure.
No tumble or do not tumble	Do not tumble dry.
Tumble warm	Tumble dry up to 65°C (150°F), as measured at the outlet stack.
Tumble cool	Tumble dry with room temperature air.
Cabinet dry warm	Cabinet dry up to 50°C (120°F).
Cabinet dry cool	Cabinet dry with room temperature air.
Steam only	Employ no contact pressure when steaming.
No steam	Do not use steam in pressing, finishing, steam cabinets or wands.
Do not dryclean	Self-explanatory.
<i>Leather Cleaning</i>	
Suede leather clean	Use special leather care methods designed for sueded leathers having a raised surface.
Fur clean	Clean in a drum type machine using dry particle cleaning compounds. Follow with fur ironing or fur glazing as needed.
Professional leather clean only	Have cleaned only by a professional cleaner who uses special leather or suede care methods.

TABLE 2 Laundering Water Temperatures In Common Use^A

Term	ASTM ISO ^B	FTC	AATCC ^{C,D}	Canada
Near boil	95°C (200°F)			95°C
Extremely hot	70°C (160°F)			70°C
Very Hot	60°C (140°F)		54°C (130°F)	60°C
Hot	50°C (120°F)	66°C (150°F)	44°C (111°F)	50°C
Warm	40°C (105°F)	32° to 43°C (90° to 110°F)	30°C (86°F)	40°C
Cool	30°C (85°F)			30°C
Cold	30°C (85°F)	29°C (85°F)	16°C (60°F)	
Very Cold				

^A The laundering temperatures in Table 2 are maximum.

^B The 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. Guide D5489 requires as a minimum the laundering water temperatures reported within the washtub symbol in degree Celsius and a dot system symbol. The water temperature may also be reported in degrees Fahrenheit.

^C The 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.

^D The AATCC temperatures in Celsius have a range of ±4.2 degrees Celsius and the water temperatures in Fahrenheit have a range of ±7.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

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