CLIMATIC STAINS (15)

One of the most mystifying occurrences is the appearance of stains and discolorations that occur after a garment is stored. There are many factors which can produce stains and discolorations while a garment is in storage.

(1) Insects-There are numerous varieties of insects that can plague the household. Scientists have identified 800,000 different insects and stated that there are 1 million to 10 million kinds of insects still undiscovered. All insects excrete water and waste which can stain fabrics. Insects lay eggs and excrete blood which is yellow or greenish in color. These type of stains are usually very difficult to remove.

(2) Mildew-Many fabrics including those made of vegetable and animal fibers are affected by a micro-organism, a fungus growth referred to as mildew. The mildew stain can appear in many colors including tan, yellow, brown, pink, purple and black. Warmth, dampness and lack of fresh air combining with starch or sizing in a fabric presents ideal conditions for mildew growth.

(3) Plastic bags-The use of plastic bags creates poor conditions for garment storage. Reports of tests taken reveal the plastic can combine with some finishes on fabric and produce yellowing. Plastic bags have the ability to confine stagnant warm air. Moisture present in the air can result in an acid condition that can stain and discolor fabrics.

CHEMICALS (BLEACHES USED FOR CLIMATIC STAINS)

(1) Hydrogen peroxide-can be purchased readily in any drug store, usually in a 3% strength, 10 volume. It is sold as a mild antiseptic. It is very effective on a wide variety of stains including scorch marks. It is accelerated by ammonia and must be carefully tested.

(2) Household bleach-contains sodium hypochlorite and includes such products as Clorox and other commercial bleaching products. These products should never be used with ammonia since they chemically break down and release toxic gas. Household bleach should never be used on wool and silk as it will decompose the fibers. Use only after careful testing.

PREPARATION

Towel or cloth
Solution of 5 drops of household bleach in 5 ounces of cool water
Clear cool water
White distilled vinegar
Clear ammonia
Hydrogen peroxide
Q-tips
¼ tablespoon of mild liquid detergent to 4 ounces of water

PROCEDURE

Place absorbent towel under stain.
Apply detergent
Rub area
Rinse with water
Detergent and add a few drops of vinegar
Rub area
Rinse
Apply detergent and a few drops of ammonia
Rub area
Rinse
Apply vinegar
Add hydrogen peroxide to the stain
Immediately apply ammonia
Let stains sit for 3 minutes
Rinse area
Apply a few drops of vinegar
Rinse
Household bleach
Wait 2 minutes
Rinse
Vinegar
Rinse