

FABRIC FACTS

Denim is a yarn dyed twill fabric that has transcended many different fabric and fashion changes. Designer denim carries a higher cost and is recognized by the labeling. The consumers desire for the worn and used look has produced different finishing techniques used by manufacturers. Stone washing, acid washing and sand washing imply bleaches, stones and sand in special washes that only remove color from fabrics but abrade and chafe the fabrics so a desired worn and used look is achieved. Special equipment can also create holes and tears in the fabric in specified areas. Denim is used for jeans, jackets shirts, skirts and shorts.

CREATING YOUR OWN DESIGNER DENIM

If you have an old pair of denim you can use various techniques in creating your own designer denim.

- (1) Dye crocking-If you routinely wash your denims add a little ammonia to the washer which will cause some color loss to the fabric.**
- (2) Localized color loss-If you add some detergent to an area of the fabric and rub it you will cause the color to crock off.**
- (3) Bleaching-You can add some household bleach (sodium hydrochloride) to the washer when washing your denim. This will cause a more pronounced loss of color throughout the denim. Make sure after bleaching you use vinegar in the rinse water to remove the last traces of bleach residue.**
- (4) Localized bleaching-Use a Clorox bleach pen to create color loss on desired areas.**
- (5) Tie dye bleaching-If you tie and knot up specific areas of a denim garment and then subject it to a general bleaching you can create a mottled look.**
- (6) Cutting the fabric-You can abrade and cut the fabric with a sharp object such as a scissor. This can be done on specific areas such as the knee.**

INSPECTION BEFORE BUYING DENIMS

If you buy denims that have subjected to stone and acid washing it is important to check for fabric deterioration. Any denim with a yellow cast to it means that the bleach that was used had not been properly rinsed or neutralized from the fabric. It would therefore be likely that weakening and deterioration of the denim could occur in a relatively short period of time.