

**FABRIC DEFECTS
PILLING AND CHAFING (26)**

Pilling is a common fabric defect occurring on both knitted and woven fabrics. In producing a yarn long fibers tightly twisted produces a serviceable yarn. When short staple fibers are mixed into the yarn the result is a yarn that will not hold together. The short staple fibers will separate from the yarn and curl up in a ball forming what is referred to as a pill. Pilling is accentuated from the friction of normal wear, washing and routine drycleaning. On some fabrics such as polyester and nylon the fibers are so strong that the pills do not easily come off. On other types of fabrics the pills can come off easily.

BUYING GARMENTS

When buying garments examine for any noticeable signs of the pilling. If the pilling is noticeable on any new fabric it will progressively become worse from the friction and mechanical action of normal wear and cleaning. Avoid buying any fabric with noticeable pills.

REMOVING PILLING

Pumice stone-Any large pharmacy sells pumice stones which is used to remove calluses. In order to remove pilling using a pumice stone you must hold the fabric taut. Someone can help you by holding the fabric taut while you rub the pills off with the pumice stone.

Electric razor-Any inexpensive electric razor can be an effective tool for removing pilling.

Straight edge razor-Hold the fabric taut when using a straight edge razor to remove pills.

CHAFING

Fabrics with fine filament yarns in a tight weave are subject to chafing. Chafing occurs when the surface yarns are abraded and changes the light reflection on a fabric causing light and discolored areas. Silk, rayon and acetate constructed with fine yarns are subject to this abrasion. In a satin weave construction the problem is even more prevalent because the yarns are very fragile. You can tell a satin weave construction by observing the high sheen on one side and a dull appearance on the other.

(2)

BUYING FABRICS

When buying new garments with sheen and luster check for chafing. You can do this by holding the fabric at an angle and observing if there is any change in the surface fabric texture causing dull, light or discolored areas.

CURES FOR CHAFING

Body oil-If you rub your scalp with your fingers you can pick up some body oil. Rub the chaffed area gently. This will often dull the chaffed area making it less objectionable.

Ironing-Lightly spray the affected area with a little water and use a warm dry iron. This will sometimes flatten the chaffed fibers and even out the affected area.