

FASHIONABLE FABRIC FLAWS (27)

When you buy an appliance or a car you expect it to work properly. When you order a meal in a restaurant you expect to be prepared the way that you like it. In fashion, however weaknesses in fabrics are deemed fashionable and are accepted by consumers. In fact weaknesses in fabric are capitalized by manufacturers which make the fabric even more desirable. The following are examples of some fabric weaknesses and how it is turned into fashion.

- (1) Madras-a fabric made of cotton, hand loomed and imported from India. It has been dyed with bleeding vegetable dyes. Manufacturers make similar garments maybe not from madras but are labeled “Guaranteed to bleed”. Make sure that when you wash these fabrics that they be washed with dark fabrics in a cold water cycle.**
- (2) Denim-this is a twill weave cotton made of white and blue yarns. Manufacturers take denim with poor dyes and capitalize on this defect. They stone wash it, bleach it, acid wash and mutilate it with special equipment. The used and distressed fabric is then sold as fashion, often at a very high price. These fabrics may have a very desirable look but you should be careful that it does have yellowing. Yellowing means that some of the bleach used to create the fashion has not been properly rinsed from the fabric.**
- (3) Velvet-a woven fabric made with a third set of yarns creating a soft pile or nap. Velvet can flatten from heat, moisture and pressure. This weakness gives the manufacturer an ability to create fashion. They can crush the pile and call it crushed velvet, sculptured velvet or panne velvet.**
- (4) Wrinkled look-you may want a well pressed garment but fashion may dictate that the fabric be wrinkled or creased. This is sold as the wrinkled look and many a drycleaner has had claims because they pressed out the wrinkles. The wrinkled look is more permanent on polyester and nylon rather than silk, cotton and rayon.**
- (5) Flaws in fabrics-some fabrics may contain natural flaws or imperfections. Manufacturers overcome this by putting it labels that may read something like this. “The imperfections and flaws in this garment is the natural characteristic and beauty of the fabric.”**
- (6) Moire-if you press a fabric with a hot iron you may produce shine or marks on the fabric. Moire is a fabric that is deliberately pressed with hot engraved rollers that create designs and marks on a fabric.**