

HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR PIGMENT PRINTED FABRICS (39)

Pigment prints are insoluble color particles that are held to the surface of a fabric by an adhesive binder. You can always tell a pigment print by observing the reverse side of the fabric. A pigment print has very little color penetration to the opposite side of the fabric. Any color can be put on to any fabric using insoluble color particles. When gold coloring matter is used it is referred to as a gilt print. Pigment print is also referred to as a paint, surface and metallic. Pigment print is used on most casual wear items but also used on items for dress wear. Draperies and furniture covers commonly use pigment prints.

PIGMENT PRINT PROBLEMS

If the adhesive binder is not permanent the pigments or coloring matter will crock off in normal wear and routine cleaning. When purchasing pigment printed items check the print for color loss especially on areas that are folded or creased. If you purchase a pigment printed item designed for drycleaning expect some color loss in cleaning. Pigment printed fabrics are more resistant to washing than drycleaning. The drycleaning solvent has a tendency to dissolve the adhesive binder causing color loss. When purchasing furniture covers that match draperies expect color loss when any one of the items is cleaned. Pigment printed suits must be drycleaned as an entire ensemble. You can not dryclean one part of the suit without the other or a color difference will be noticed.

SPOTTING

Do not use excessive rubbing when removing stains or color loss will occur. Use a blotting or tamping action for better color retention. Do not use grease cutting spotting agents such as Simple Green. Any grease cutting spotting agent will cause loss of print. You can safely use most mild detergents, ammonia, vinegar, hydrogen peroxide and even color safe bleach is usually safe.

WASHING

Use a mild detergent in warm water. Turn item inside out to reduce friction on the print. Avoid using fabric softener which tends to loosen the print.

RUST STAIN

I received a call from one of my readers for the method to remove a rust stain. A simple remedy that works is using salt and vinegar. The chemical reaction produces an acid that works well on removing rust. The reader called me back to tell me that this procedure worked well.