

HOW TO BUY AND CARE FOR YOUR MICRO FIBER FABRICS (42)

When DuPont came out with their polyester micro fiber called micromattique I tested it and issued them a technical report on the cleaning serviceability. Micro fiber is an important development in fiber technology. Continuous filament fibers emerge from a spinneret thinner than the fibers of natural silk. This gives the manufacturer the ability to manufacture high fashion fabrics looking like silk but eliminating the cost of using natural silk. I have found that many fabric experts find it difficult to distinguish a micro fiber polyester from natural silk. Micro fiber can be made of both man made and synthetic fibers including polyester, nylon, acrylic and rayon. Polyester is the most common micro fiber used. Micro fibers are used in high fashion fabrics including suits, jackets, blouses, dresses, evening and wedding gowns. The fabric can be constructed as a satin, taffeta, knits, velvets and suede like fabrics. It is also used commonly for furniture covering.

PROBLEMS

Many manufacturers mislabel high fashion garments with micro fiber. Even though the garment may be washable they do not want a high fashion garment labeled as washable. They label may state:

- (1) Dryclean only**
- (2) Spot Clean only**
- (3) Do not dryclean. Do not wash.**

High styled micro fiber garments with unserviceable trimming may be mislabeled as a DryClean only garment. The fact is that all micro fiber fabrics made of polyester, acrylic and nylon can be hand washed providing lining or trimming is also washable. Professional drycleaners wetclean many evening gowns with labels that say Dryclean Only. Furniture covers made of polyester micro fiber can be spot cleaned with a mild detergent and water.

WASHING PROCEDURES FOR MICRO FIBER FABRICS MADE OF POLYESTER, NYLON AND ACRYLIC

Put knits and fragile garments in a net bag. Use a gentle cycle with warm water and a mild detergent. Use a 2 minute drying cycle on a warm setting.

HAND WASHING FRAGILE POLYESTER MICRO FIBERS

Use either a pail filled with warm water or fill the washing machine. Add a mild detergent such as Tide. Agitate by hand, rinse and use a short extraction. Hang to dry.

(2)

IRONING INSTRUCTIONS

All micro fiber fabrics should be hand ironed with a warm iron rather than a hot iron. Hot irons will fuse, melt and permanently shine fabrics made of polyester, nylon and acrylic. If these fabrics are washed properly and hung up immediately excess wrinkling will be avoided and less ironing required.