

IMPROPER WASHING CAN SHORTEN THE LIFE OF FABRICS (49)

When fabrics are washed the friction and mechanical action can cause the fibers to break down reducing the life of the fabric. The breakdown of the fibers produces lint which accumulates in the screen of the dryer. A cotton shirt may have a life span of one hundred washings but improper washing can shorten this to a great extent.

PROPER WASHING PROCEDURE

- (1) Detergent concentration-Use the proper detergent concentration as outlined by the manufacturer. The detergent creates lubrication so the fabrics are slippery. If the detergent concentration is too low the fabrics will not be properly lubricated causing excess friction during the washing cycle. Do not put in too much detergent since this is a waste of money and does not add to the cleaning.**
- (2) Water temperature-A very hot water temperature shortens fabric life. In hot water detergents lose their lubricating properties. Hot water also accelerates chemical action. The chemical action is doubled every 18 degrees in temperature. Excess chemical action causes a breakdown of fibers.**
- (3) Household bleach-Sodium hypochlorite is a very good whitening agent if properly used. If it is used improperly it is a major cause of a breakdown in fabrics. Household bleach should be diluted before being added to the washer. First, dilute $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of bleach in 1 quart of water. Then add $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of the diluted mixture to the washer.**
- (4) Removing Bleach residue-Household bleach is not removed from fabrics in the rinsing cycle of washing. If this bleach remains in the fabric the heat of drying will accelerate the breakdown of the fabric. Use vinegar to remove last traces of bleach. Add approximately 3 cups of vinegar in the rinse cycle to remove last traces of bleach.**
- (5) Dryer temperature-Avoid using a very high drying temperature. Heat and mechanical action of drying breaks down fibers. Use a warm drying cycle for drying.**

WHY IS LINT GRAY?

A reader asked me why lint is always gray. I have a couple of reasons why this occurs.

(2)

- (1) **There are usually more white garments washed than dark.**
- (2) **The dyes on fabrics do not always penetrate the yarn. Many dyes stay on the surface of the fabric and the lint residue is mostly light colored. Observe the reverse side of the fabric and you will very often see a lighter fabric.**
- (3) **When you mix all colors of lint together it frequently appears as a white or gray color.**