

## **MYSTERIOUS BLEACH DISCOLORATIONS (60)**

I received a phone call from a friend who was perplexed by bleach stains which had occurred on her husband's clothes. She was using a mild detergent but found many garments belonging to her husband which were ruined with bleach like discolorations. I had the opportunity to examine a few of the ruined garments and found that the discolorations were confined primarily to the surface of the fabric and did not penetrate to the opposite side. I explained that this can not be due to faulty washing. Bleach stains which occur in washing can not be selective and only affect the surface of the fabric. I asked her if her husband was using any medicines. She read off the ingredients that were contained in his skin cream. One of the ingredients she read off was benzoyl peroxide which is a strong oxidizing agent which is capable of bleaching out color from a fabric.

### **BLEACH CONTACT**

Sometimes when a bleach contacts a fabric the discoloration occurring on the fabric may not be readily noticeable. Age and moisture in the air activates the bleaching agent. The discoloration often becomes more noticeable from the heat and mechanical action of drycleaning or washing.

### **HAIR PREPARATIONS**

There are several agents used in hair preparations that are capable of removing dye on a fabric. During the treatment some hair preparations may seep through the protective towel over the outer garment. Common places to find such discolorations are the neckline, back and shoulders but they are not necessarily limited to these areas as the liquid may be spilled anywhere.

- (1) Hair bleach-is usually 6% hydrogen peroxide. This is twice as strong as the peroxide used in the medicine cabinet as an antiseptic.
- (2) Home permanent lotions-The chemicals contained in either the waving treatment or the neutralizer in cold wave and home permanent lotions can destroy dye when left on a fabric. The action on a fabric is the same as that of a bleaching agent.

### **TILE CLEANERS**

Some tile cleaners contain sodium hypochlorite or chlorine bleach. The chlorine bleach is used as an aid for mildew removal on tile. Garments are readily affected by accidental spillage.

(2)

## **BATHING SUITS**

**Wet bathing suits may contain a residue of chlorine bleach capable of removing dye on fabrics. Do not throw wet bathing suits on top of other fabrics ready to be washed. You can rinse the bathing suits in a small pail filled with water and vinegar. Use 2 ounces of vinegar to one gallon of water. The vinegar will remove traces of the chlorine bleach so the bathing suits can be washed with other fabrics safely.**



















