

## **NEUTRALIZING COLOR CHANGE (ACID AND ALKALI) (61)**

**A color change on a fabric occurs when a fabric or dye has sensitivity to a certain chemical. The dye on a fabric can change to a different color or a white fabric can yellow.**

### **ACID COLOR CHANGES**

**Acids are defined as chemicals that release hydrogen ions in the presence of water. Acid color change can occur from the acids found in perspiration, urine, some medicines, vinegar, metal cleaners and battery acids. Do not confuse staining caused by tannic acid found in such substances such as coffee, wine and tea. In this case the staining is due to the coloring matter in the stain. Acids can affect the dye on any fabric but usually the dyes on cotton, linen, rayon and acetate are most sensitive.**

### **ALKALI**

**Alkali is defined as chemicals that release hydroxyl ions in the presence of water. A common alkali is found in household ammonia, window cleaners, dishwasher detergents, color safe bleach and other household cleaners. Alkalis can affect the dye on any fabric but is most sensitive to wool and silk. If alkali is left in a fabric after washing the heat of ironing will turn the fabric yellow.**

### **NEUTRALIZATION**

**Neutralization is the reaction between an acid and alkali which forms water and salt. Professional laundries neutralize high alkaline washing by using an acid which is referred to as a sour.**

### **PRODUCTS FOR NEUTRALIZING**

**White distilled vinegar for neutralizing alkaline color change.  
Household ammonia for neutralizing acid color changes.**

### **PROCEDURE**

**Before neutralizing color change it is necessary to first rinse the affected chemical out of the fabric. You can not put an acid on top of an alkali or vice versa without first rinsing. Acid and alkali contacting each other without rinsing form an aggressive chemical reaction.**

- (1) Rinse affecting chemical from fabric.**
- (2) Apply an acid or alkali depending on which chemical caused the color change.**
- (3) Rinse area again.**

## **NEUTRALIZE CHEMICALS IN WASHING**

**Most household detergents are neutral in nature and do not have to be neutralized. If however you use color safe bleach, washing soda, household ammonia or household bleach these cleaning agents must be neutralized with vinegar in the rinse water. Add 6 ounces of vinegar in the rinse water to neutralize or sour the aforementioned chemicals used. Vinegar or acids remove chlorine bleach by an acceleration process. This means that the residue of bleach is accelerated and used up.**