

PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO GARMENT PROBLEM SOLVING (67)

As a garment analyst for 35 years I professionally test damaged garments and find solutions for the problems. I have taught these solutions to professional cleaners and many of these solutions can also be used by the homemaker. When attempting to solve problems on fabrics it is necessary to first understand the problem. The following problems and solutions should be helpful.

Jacket collar-When the felt lining on the back of the jacket collar shows through it means that the collar has shrunk. It would be time consuming to try to stretch the collar when a simple solution is available. All you would have to do is to tack the collar down or use a small amount of fusible tape and press it down.

Jacket hem is puckering-This means shrinkage of the lining. Snip the tacking in a few places on the lining hem. This will alleviate the puckering.

The jacket lining hangs down-When the lining of a garment hangs down it means that the outer fabric has shrunk. Lay the garment on a ironing board and press some wrinkles into the lining which will reduce the length of the lining. You can also tack the excess lining to the seams.

Puckering on jacket-Jackets have a fusible backing which can separate. The fusible backing fabric is coated with adhesives and in manufacture it is pressed to the outer fabric. If this fabric separates you can correct the problem by laying the jacket on a ironing board and spray with a little water. Put a pressed cloth on the affected area and press with a hot iron using no steam from the iron. Steam from an iron will accentuate the puckering.

Pilling-When short staple fibers on a fabric separate they form balls or pills on the surface of the fabric. A straight edged razor or an electric razor is helpful in removing pilling. The best way however is to use a pumice stone which is sold at a pharmacy as a callous remover. Hold the fabric taut when rubbing with the pumice stone.

Shine-Shine can be caused by either too much heat and pressure in pressing or from wear. The surface fibers are either flattened or worn away which changes the light reflection. To reduce shine try spraying with a little white distilled vinegar and hang to dry. On sturdy fabrics sometimes rubbing with an emery cloth or fine sandpaper will raise the surface fibers, thus reducing light reflection of the fabric.

Yarn shifting-If the yarns of a fabric are not broken take a sharp pin and gently rub the fabric from the back. This will sometimes cause the fabric weave to align itself.

Unraveling of yarn on knitted fabrics-Obtain a latch type needle from a sewing supply store. The needle is then inserted through the back of the knit fabric and the unraveled yarns can easily be pulled through the back which makes a simple repair.