

PROFESSIONAL CARE OF RED FABRICS (69)

The spotting and washing of red fabrics is troublesome because of poor dye affinity. To achieve a desired red color the manufacturer uses excess dye which does not penetrate the fiber or sets into the fabric. Professional drycleaners also have many problems with red fabrics. It is not unusual for one red garment that is drycleaned to bleed and contaminate all the solvent in the drycleaning machine. Consumers have problems with red color when they do not classify washing loads properly and have a red garment contaminate an entire load of light colored fabrics. There are some red dyed fabrics that have poorer dye affinity than others. The worse dye bleeders are red fabrics made of cotton, silk, rayon and linen. Red corduroy and velour are notorious for dye bleeding. More stable red dyed fabrics are polyester, nylon and acrylic. The reason is that the thermo-plastic nature of the fabric allows the dye to become permanently set into the yarn during manufacture.

SPOTTING

When spotting a red dyed fabric use a white towel and tamp or tap the stain in rapid motion. Do not rub a red fabric because the dye may crock off or break away from the surface of the fabric. Avoid using ammonia since alkali tends to bleed red dyes. Avoid using color safe bleaches for spotting red dyed fabrics. Color safe bleaches are usually alkaline in nature which can cause the dye to bleed. Household vinegar is usually safe as a spotting aid. It is advisable to pre-test spotting procedures on an unexposed area before using.

WASHING PROCEDURES

Classify red fabrics with a dark load. Use white distilled vinegar as a dye setter. Use approximately three cups of vinegar. Use any mild detergent for washing on a warm water cycle. Do not enter the red fabrics with a dark load at the start of the wash cycle. Add the red fabrics at the end of the wash cycle. The shorter the time that the red fabrics remain in the wash cycle, the less dye removal occurs. Do not use a soaking action on red fabrics since dye loss and transfer can occur. The red fabrics must be constantly agitated in the wash cycle to prevent dye streaking.

REMOVING RED DYE STAINS ON WHITE FABRICS

- (1) Use a small pail and fill with warm water.
- (2) Add a color safe bleach to the water in the ratio of 2 ounces per gallon of water.
- (3) Add a small amount of a mild detergent.
- (4) Soak overnight.
- (5) Wash on a regular wash cycle and use vinegar in the rinse cycle to neutralize the alkalinity of the color safe bleach.

