

PROFESSIONAL TIPS FOR FINISHING GARMENTS (76)

As a licensed drycleaning instructor I teach professional drycleaners the art of spotting and finishing. As a columnist for Scripps newspapers I teach consumers the same theories. There are many pitfalls that drycleaners and consumers run into when pressing fabrics. Proper finishing requires that fabrics be pressed so that the look of the fabric resembles the original fabric when it was new.

FINISHING PROBLEMS

- (1) Shine-Shine is unsightly and occurs from heat, moisture and pressure. Shine occurs because the surface of the fabric flattens and reflects light instead of absorbing it. Shine usually occurs more frequently on seam areas and areas of double thickness.**

Avoiding shine-To avoid shine you can do several things. On fabrics subject to shine use ironing temperatures and a flannel cloth to protect the fabric when ironing. Another method to prevent shine is to use a method in finishing referred to as “kissing the fabric”. In this method the iron is held slightly above the fabric and contacts the fabric by barely touching the fabric.

Removing shine-The best method is to lightly spray the fabric with water and allow the fabric to dry naturally. You can also spray the fabric with a little household vinegar and allowing it to dry naturally. If a hot iron produces shine on polyester, nylon or acetate it can rarely be corrected since the fabric melts and fuses.

- (2) Double Creases-One crease is fine but extra creases do not belong. A major cause of double creases occurs because the fabric is not laid down or positioned properly. Many people try to match up the center seams and then press the leg fabric. The rule is always line up the front crease and never change that original crease. To soften the fabric and make positioning the fabric easier spray with a little water and use steam from the iron.**

Removing double creases-Lay the trouser leg of the fabric flat so that the double crease is in the center facing you. Then run the steam iron over both creases. The one remaining is the proper crease.

- (3) The Collar Area-The collar area is usually difficult to press because of the excess fabric caused from shrinking of the backing fabric. Running the steam iron across the collar can pinch the fabric causing a permanent crease. To avoid the problem run the steam iron over half the collar area from right to left. Then run the iron over half the collar from left to right. This avoids the excess fabric from being pinched.**

(2)

Removing pinched fabrics-Wet the area thoroughly with water and work out the pinched fabric with your fingers.