

## **PROPER HANDLING OF DENIMS (84)**

**Denim is rugged looking twill weave fabric, first brought to America by Columbus almost 500 years ago. The name derives from it's origin (deNimes, France). Denims are characterized by dark yarns in the warp direction and light colored yarns in the filling. Denims are popular by consumers in casual wear as well as high fashion. This makes an ideal fabric for men's, women's and children's wear. Denim is usually cotton but can be blended with polyester for wrinkle resistance or Spandex for stretch characteristics. Denims can be yarn, piece or surface dye. Denims are also popular in a used or distressed look created by stone or acid washed processes.**

### **PRESPOTTING**

**Do not rub the surface of a denim since dye crocking or dye loss will occur. The surface of the denim should be blotted only. Before washing apply a Spray and Wash on stained areas.**

### **WASHING**

**Denim denotes styling and different people desire a different appearance. Some people want a soft looking denim while other people want a stiff feel. The wash time is also determined by the look of the denim. Light colored denims require more wash time while dark colors require less time. The more wash time, the more color loss that you can expect.**

### **PROCEDURE FOR WASH**

**To avoid color loss the denim should be turned inside out. Use warm water with a mild detergent. To help prevent color loss add a little vinegar or salt which acts as a dye setter in the wash wheel. Run the denims on a gentle wash cycle.**

### **A SOFT FEEL**

**If you desire a soft feel add a little softening agent to the rinse cycle such as Snuggle. Dry in a warm dryer until thoroughly dry. Use a warm iron for finishing or pressing.**

### **A STIFF FEEL**

**After denims are washed they should be removed slightly damp from the dryer or 90% dry. They should then be lightly sprayed with a sizing and they should be pressed slightly damp. A spray sizing that is recommended is Niagara, which is a sizing that is used by professional drycleaners. It can be obtained in your local supermarket.**

### **RESTORING COLOR LOCALLY**

**Sometimes color loss may occur on a local area. In order to add color you can use blue or black carbon paper or a ball point pen. To create the denim look tap the area with a white pencil which creates the light and dark denim appearance.**

### **RESTORING COLOR IN WASHING**

**To darken your denims you can use Martha Stewart's bluing agent in your rinse cycle (Follow manufacturers instructions)**