

TEXTILE CARE SYMBOLS



GINETEX

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TEXTILE CARE LABELLING

GINETEX™



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CARE LABELLING BASIC PRINCIPLES

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This standard is the result of an agreement between GINETEX as the owner of the trademarks and ISO (International Standardization Organization).

Commercial companies (wholesalers, retailers, importers etc.) are advised to ensure correct information of the care treatment of textile products and appropriate labelling in compliance with national regulations of the importing countries.

The textile care label provides information on the most severe treatment that does not cause irreversible damage to the article during the textile care process and thus ensuring to secure the expected life-time of the articles.

Milder treatments and lower temperatures than indicated on the label are always allowed. For example, washing and ironing at lower temperatures preserves the environment through reduced power requirement.

The bar under the care symbols indicates a mild process (e.g. for easy care articles). The double bar symbolizes a very mild process.

The symbols refer to the part most sensible to the care treatment of a textile article. This includes: colouring, finishing, accessories (such as buttons, zips) and applications.

The care procedures applied according to the information given on the label guarantee that the article will not be damaged. However, there is no guarantee that all stains are completely removed.

Consumers should check the textile articles before buying, to make sure they find care treatment information on the label to better care about their textiles.

This document in English (October 2025)
is the reference for all existing translations.



WASHING

CARE INSTRUCTIONS AND SYMBOLS

The symbol indicates whether domestic washing is possible and applies both to hand and machine washes.

The numbers in the washtub specify the maximum washing temperatures in degrees Celsius which must not be exceeded.

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Keep dirty laundry in a well aired and dry place and do not leave lying around for too long.

Pre-treat stains or heavily soiled pieces suitably; check colourfastness in advance.

Before washing, pre-sort laundry according to the degree of soiling, type of treatment (washing temperature), colour and, if no care label is provided, according to the indicated fibre content. Note any instructions on exposure to reduced mechanical strain (mild washing cycle).

In the case of coloured items, a separation into articles with bright and dark colours is recommended. A separate first wash of new coloured textiles may be appropriate.

Fabrics made of synthetic fibres or mixed fabrics should not be washed together with linen (risk of pilling).

Set the appropriate washing program according to the care symbol (normal process, mild process, very mild process).

Do not use the “pre-wash” program unless the laundry is very dirty. Comply with the washing machine manufacturer’s recommendations.

If wet laundry is to be washed, only half-fill the drum.

When washing textiles marked as “easy-care” articles, use a mild washing cycle. Reduce the quantity of laundry and spin carefully (risk of creasing).

Always add detergents according to the dosing instructions, taking due account of the degree of soiling, water hardness and load. Make sure to choose the right detergent.

When treating coloured textiles, the use of mild or colour detergents is recommended to prevent loss in colour. In the case of coloured textiles, do not use an universal detergent which contains oxygen for bleaching purposes, unless the bleaching symbol (Δ) allows its use. Otherwise, there is a risk of colour change.

Insufficient detergent use may give poor washing results.

Deposits may be formed on the laundry (grey coloration) and in the washing machine. This will reduce the life cycle of the textiles and also that of the washing machine.

A too high dosage of detergent does not necessarily lead to a better wash result and has a negative impact on the environment.



maximum temperature 95 °C
normal process

Articles e.g. in cotton or linen, white, suitable for boiling, dyed or printed. Fill the drum completely. Pre-treat stubborn stains.



maximum temperature 70 °C
normal process

Articles e.g. in cotton or linen, white, suitable for boiling, dyed or printed. Fill the drum completely. Set an appropriate washing program (normal washing cycle). Pretreat stubborn stains. Energy-saving method.



maximum temperature 60 °C
normal process

Coloured articles which must not be washed at boiling temperature e.g. made of cotton, modal, polyester and mixed fabrics.



maximum temperature 60 °C
mild process

Reduce the quantity of laundry. The drum must not be more than two-thirds full. Pre-wash only if the textiles are heavily soiled. Avoid spinning or do spin for short periods only to minimise the risk of creasing.



maximum temperature 50 °C
normal process

Coloured articles which must not be washed at boiling temperature e.g. made of cotton, modal, polyester and mixed fabrics with some applications or accessories which do not withstand higher temperatures.



maximum temperature 50 °C
mild process

Reduce the quantity of laundry. The drum must not be more than two-thirds full. Pre-wash only if the textiles are heavily soiled. Avoid spinning or do spin for short periods only to minimise the risk of creasing.



maximum temperature 40 °C
normal process

Washing cycle e.g. for dark coloured articles made of cotton, polyester, mixed fabrics etc.



maximum temperature 40 °C
mild process

Fine laundry, e.g. in modal, viscose, synthetic fibres (polyacryl, polyester and polyamide*). Reduce the quantity of laundry. Pre-wash only heavily soiled textiles. Avoid spinning or do spin for short periods only to minimise the risk of creasing.



maximum temperature 40 °C
very mild process

For articles e.g. in machine-washable wool*. This washing cycle ensures a much reduced mechanical treatment. Reduce the quantity of laundry substantially. The drum should be no more than one-third full.



maximum temperature 30 °C
normal process

Washing cycle, e.g. for dark coloured articles in cotton, polyester, mixed fabrics etc.



maximum temperature 30 °C
mild process

For articles, e.g. in modal, viscose, polyacryl, polyester and polyamide. Reduce the quantity of laundry. Avoid spinning or do spin for short periods only to minimise the risk of creasing.



maximum temperature 30 °C
very mild process

Articles made, e.g. of machine-washable wool. This washing cycle ensures a much reduced mechanical treatment. Reduce the quantity of laundry substantially.



hand wash maximum temperature 40 °C

Hand wash at a water temperature of maximum 40 °C, depending on the particular article. First dissolve a mild detergent in plenty of water. Allow the textiles to float in the solution and agitate carefully. Do not rub, pull and wring out. Then rinse the textiles well, press the superfluous water out carefully and pull into shape. Treat coloured and sensitive pieces rapidly and do not leave lying in the wet state.



hand wash ambient temperature

Hand wash at a water ambient temperature between around 20 to 30 °C. First dissolve a fine detergent in plenty of water. Allow the textiles to float in the solution and agitate carefully. Do not rub, pull and wring out. Then rinse the textiles well, press the superfluous water out very carefully and pull into shape. Treat coloured and sensitive pieces rapidly and do not leave lying in the wet state.



do not wash

Articles marked in this way must not be washed.

* The finished garment should be tested accordingly

△ BLEACHING

CARE INSTRUCTIONS AND SYMBOLS

The triangle indicates whether the article may or may not be bleached.

Bleaching is a process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during or after washing, requiring the use of an oxidizing agent including either chlorine or oxygen / non-chlorine products, for the purpose of improving soil and stain removal and / or improving whiteness. Applied are active chlorine products (e.g. javel water) or oxygen / non-chlorine products contained in universal detergents.

Oxygen / non-chlorine products offer a wide spectrum of different activated and non-activated systems (e.g. oxygen-products).

If no bleaching is allowed, use only bleach-free detergents. Be careful with stain removing products. A test on a concealed part of the article is advisable beforehand.



any bleaching agent allowed

The empty triangle is the symbol for possible chlorine and oxygen bleach. Any bleaching agent is allowed.



only oxygen / non-chlorine bleach allowed

The triangle with two oblique lines indicates that only oxygen / non-chlorine bleach (contained in most universal detergents) is permitted but not chlorine bleach.



do not bleach

The triangle with a diagonal cross (St. Andrews Cross) indicates that bleaching is not allowed. Use only bleach-free detergents.

□ DRYING

CARE INSTRUCTIONS AND SYMBOLS

The square is the symbol of the drying process. The circle inside the square is a reference to tumble drying, the line(s) inside the square symbolize(s) natural drying after the washing process.

TUMBLE DRYING

The number of dots in the dryer drum indicates the severity as regard to temperature of the tumble drying process.



tumble drying possible
normal temperature exhaust
temperature max. 80 °C

Drying in the tumbler is possible under normal load and temperature (80 °C) without limitations.



tumble drying possible
low temperature exhaust
temperature max. 60 °C

Caution is appropriate when tumble drying. Select mild process with reduced thermal action (60 °C) and reduce duration of treatment.



do not tumble dry

Articles unsuitable for drying in the tumbler.

Some articles should preferably not be tumbled tried (note the care symbol).

- Extract water well before drying.
- Do not overfill the drying drum.
- Only place articles which require the same drying time together in the dryer. Cotton and synthetics for example have a different drying time and reach the requested residual humidity after a different drying time.
- Dimensionally- and heat-sensitive pieces should not be placed in a tumble dryer.

NATURAL DRYING

The symbol containing horizontal or vertical line(s) in the square indicates the natural drying process. The oblique line symbolizes the respective natural drying process to be carried out in the shade.

The lines indicate type and position of the natural drying process.



line drying*



drip line drying*



flat drying*



drip flat drying*



line drying
in the shade



drip line
drying in
the shade



flat drying
in the shade



drip flat drying
in the shade

* With the exception of the sun (colour fastness rates), these treatments cause no irreversible damage. If tumble drying is forbidden, it might be possible to recommend natural drying.

A IRONING

CARE INSTRUCTIONS AND SYMBOLS

The number of dots indicates the severity as regards to temperature of the hand iron (regulator, steam, travel irons and ironing machines). On the ironing appliances which are habitually used, particular fibres are sometimes associated with these adjustment ranges.

The maximum temperature has to be selected solely on the basis of the care label and not according to the fibre content of a textile article.



iron at a maximal sole plate temperature of 210 °C

Corresponding to the cotton / linen setting. If necessary, moisten. Shiny- or pressure-sensitive pieces should be ironed with press cloth or ironed inside out. A steam iron may be used.



iron at a maximal sole plate temperature of 160 °C

Corresponding to the wool / silk / polyester / viscose setting. A steam iron can be used. Avoid heavy pressure. If necessary, shiny- or pressure-sensitive pieces should be ironed with a press cloth or inside out.



iron at a maximal sole plate temperature of 120 °C, steam iron may cause irreversible damage

Corresponding to the polyester / polyamide (nylon) / acetate setting. If necessary, shiny- or pressure-sensitive pieces should be ironed with a press cloth or inside out.



iron at a maximum sole plate temperature of 120 °C without steam

Corresponding to the polyacryl, polyamide (nylon), acetate setting. If necessary, shiny- or pressure-sensitive pieces should be ironed with a press cloth or inside out. Work without steam.



do not iron

Irreversible changes must be expected if an iron is used.

○ PROFESSIONAL TEXTILE CARE

CARE INSTRUCTIONS AND SYMBOLS

The symbol gives information on the possibility of professional dry or wet cleaning. The circle symbolizes the dry cleaning and wet cleaning process for textile articles carried out by professionals. It provides information relative to different cleaning processes.

In professional textile care different solvents are used, organic or water based. Therefore, care labelling differs between dry cleaning and wet cleaning.

PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEANING

The letters within the circle are intended for professional textile cleaners. They give information in particular on the solvents that can be used (P, F).

The bar below the circle indicates that certain limitations in the dry cleaning process are required. These may concern mechanical action, addition of moisture, lye and / or drying temperature.

When choosing the cleaning process, the professional textile cleaner must also take into account the nature of the textile materials and their degree of soiling (normal / mild process). The professional textile cleaner will pay attention to the use of stain removers on a solvent base while mild dry cleaning treatments.

For any dry cleaning processes, a test on a concealed part of the article is advisable beforehand.



Professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethylene), dibutoxymethane (DBM) and in all solvents listed under symbol (F), normal process. Normal cleaning process with no restrictions.



Professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethylene), dibutoxymethane (DBM) and all solvents listed under symbol (F), mild process. Mild cleaning process with stringent limitation of added humidity and / or mechanical action and / or temperature.



Professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene (also known as perchloroethylene), dibutoxymethane (DBM) and all solvents listed under symbol (F), very mild process. Very mild cleaning process with stringent limitation of added humidity and / or mechanical action and / or temperature.



Professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150 °C and 210 °C, flash point between 38 °C and 70 °C) and decamethylpentacyclosiloxane, normal process. Normal cleaning process with no limitations.



Professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150 °C and 210 °C, flash point between 38 °C and 70 °C) and decamethylpentacyclosiloxane, mild process. Mild cleaning process with stringent limitation of added humidity and / or mechanical action and / or temperature.



Do not dry clean
No professional dry cleaning allowed

○ PROFESSIONAL TEXTILE CARE

PROFESSIONAL WET CLEANING

The symbol for wet cleaning is used for articles which may be treated in water by professionals using special technology (cleaning, rinsing, spinning), detergents and additives to minimize adverse effects.

The requirements placed on the professional equipment, the aids used and the finishing methods cannot be achieved in household washing machines.



professional wet cleaning, normal process
normal wet cleaning process
with no restrictions.



professional wet cleaning, mild process
wet cleaning process for sensitive textiles
with reduced mechanical action.



professional wet cleaning, very mild process
wet cleaning process for very sensitive textiles
with much reduced mechanical action.



do not wet clean
no professional wet cleaning allowed

LABELLING

Several types of textile labels are common: care, fibre composition, size, origin, quality, brand name, logo, environmental or social impact.

The legislation on textile labelling may vary from country to country. Care labelling is mostly voluntary in the European Union; however, it can also be legally required in some European countries and in many international markets.

The fibre composition of textile goods is mandatory in the European Union, and in most international markets. Textile labelling specifications are given by national governments as well as by standards.

Manufacturers or retailers can either give care information in a written language or by using the care symbols (or both) accordingly to national regulation which may varies from country to country.

Labelling provides relevant information to guide users in the purchase, use and care of textile articles. The basic principle of care labelling is that the information should be unambiguous. A label that could mislead the consumer must be avoided.

In addition, textile labels are also a source of information for retailers and for professional cleaners. The information given on the labels also facilitates the communications throughout the textile chain (textile manufacturers, apparel producers, distribution and trade).

The manufacturer or retailer who decides to put information on a textile care label is always responsible for its content.

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