



CARE LABELING LAWS

The Federal Trade Commission Regulation, titled Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, has been in effect since July 1972; amended July 1997. This rule requires that most apparel items have care labels permanently attached. These labels must be made so they remain legible for the reasonable life of the garment.

The care label, an overwrap on packaged garments, or a securely affixed hang tag must be readily accessible to the consumer at the point of sale. If an overwrap or hang tag is used, it can include more complete information, but should not conflict with the permanently affixed care label.

There are a few articles that may be exempted from these regulations. They are:

1. Articles whose utility or appearance would be substantially impaired by attachment of a permanent label.
For example: a very sheer blouse.
2. Articles sold at retail for \$3 or less which are completely washable under normal and foreseeable circumstances.
For example: white cotton underwear.

Retailers who sell fabrics over the counter for home sewing must supply care labels to consumers. It is hoped that consumers will accept the responsibility of requesting these labels and attaching them to the garments they sew.

The Federal Trade Commission has proposed a new rule to extend the Care Labeling rule to require that manufacturers provide retailers with care instructions for consumers who purchase carpets and rugs, or yarn for home use.

This same proposed Care Labeling rule would require that care labels be attached permanently to the following items:

- suede and leather wearing apparel
- upholstered furniture
- draperies
- sheets and bedspreads
- tablecloths
- towels
- slipcovers