

LOOK FOR THE LABEL

Consumer Protection Laws require that certain information be placed on labels or tags of clothing and textile goods.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION **MUST** APPEAR ON A LABEL:

FIBER CONTENT: The generic name and the percentage is listed first. Other fibers are listed in descending order. Fibers that make up less than 5% of the fabric need not be listed unless they affect the garment's characteristics.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS: These include basic information such as Dry-clean only or Do not use chlorine bleach. Manufacturers must stand behind these instructions. If you follow the care instructions exactly and something goes wrong, you can return the garment.

Makers are required to list only the best or tested care methods. Others may also be safe. At the same time, harmful methods are not listed either. If washing will ruin a garment, the label does not have to say so.

LOCATION OF MANUFACTURE: If the garment was imported, the name of the country where the garment was made must be listed.

SIZE: The size must be stated. Often, it is on a separate label sewn into a seam.

THE FOLLOWING KINDS OF INFORMATION **MAY** APPEAR ON LABELS OR TAGS. THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED BY LAW

TRADEMARK OR BRAND NAME LABELS: When you discover a brand that fits you well, you may wish to buy other garments by the same maker.

STORE NAME: Some stores buy directly from a factory and put their own label in a garment. But chances are good that, unlike brand name garments, clothing with a store name is not all produced by the same maker.

CERTIFICATION LABELS: These are like guarantees. They state that the garment will perform in a certain way under certain conditions.

UNION LABELS: These tell which union made the garment. They are found on garments made in the United States.

LOGOS: These are symbols of a maker or an association. One example is the Wool Mark logo, which you may have seen on wool clothing.

DESIGNER OR SIGNATURE LABELS: These are like brand names. They are often placed on the outside of a garment as a status symbol. Garments with such labels are often more expensive.

Before you buy a garment, **READ THE LABELS**. You'll learn useful information that will help you make better buying decisions.