

WHAT KIND OF CARE IS REQUIRED?

The care required needs to be considered in relation to the purpose of the garment. Is the time, energy and cost involved appropriate to the wear and use of the garment? Fabric finishes and fiber content affect care.

1. Natural fibers: cotton, wool, silk, and linen take longer to dry because they are absorbent. Natural fibers are not as wrinkle resistant as synthetic fibers.
2. Synthetic fibers: nylon, polyester, acrylic, etc. wash and dry quickly because they are not very absorbent. They should be pressed with a warm, not hot iron because they are heat sensitive.
3. Blends of fibers should be laundered or cleaned according to the most delicate fiber in the blends.
4. The method of construction can influence care feature. For example, knitted fabrics usually have greater resiliency than woven fabrics.
5. Fabric finishes which eliminate ironing and soiling are in demand because of their ease of care.

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION? READ THE CARE LABEL ON THE FABRIC PURCHASED



WHAT ABOUT SHRINKAGE?

The shrinkage given on the label on the bolt end is the percentage of the total shrinkage per yard, both in length and width. Two per cent shrinkage means that one yard of fabric will not shrink more than 7/10 of one inch per yard. This may or may not make a difference to the finished garment.

To be sure that the garment will not shrink it is always wise to **preshrink** the fabric **before** cutting.

If the label does not indicate that the fabric has been preshrunk, fabrics need to be pretreated by **washing** or **sponging**. All washable woolens should be shrunk to relax any stretching that may have occurred in the finishing process of the fabric.

1. For fabrics which will be washed - soak fabric in lukewarm water for a few hours (or put through a cycle in the washing machine) and then dry as you would normally expect to dry the garment.
2. For fabrics which will be dry cleaned - spread fabric on dampened sheet, fold with sheet and leave overnight. To dry, spread fabric flat being sure grain is straight. (This is called the LONDON SHRINK and is a good way to pretreat woolen fabrics.