

COMPETENCY #7: Understand common fabric finishes and how finishes help to prolong the life of the fabric or garment.

CONCEPT: Prolonging the life of fabric or garment is a good consumerism.

LECTURE/DISCUSSION

Discuss the following points:

1. Fabric Finishes are treatments, or processes that improve the natural characteristics of fibers.
2. Characteristics of fibers/fabrics that are less desirable, can be controlled by special finishes or treatments. Examples: untreated cotton fibers tend to wrinkle easily, they also shrink when washed in hot water. Thanks to special processes, cotton can become wrinkle resistant and shrink resistant.
3. Clothing made with specially treated fabrics may last longer, function and look better than fabrics that have not been treated. Raincoats and tents treated to be water repellent will function as long as their water repellent finish does.
4. Some fabrics use finishes to improve their texture or feel. Special processes add or remove luster and can smooth textures.
5. Fabric finishes can be permanent, durable, temporary, or renewable. A permanent finish lasts the life of the garment. A durable finish lasts through several launderings or dry cleanings but has a tendency to lose some of its effectiveness over a long period of time. A temporary finish lasts until the fabric is washed or dry cleaned. A renewable finish is washed or dry cleaned. A renewable finish is temporary, but can be replaced.
6. One group of finishes is called "performance finishes" because they improve the quality of the fabric they are added to. Examples: wrinkle-resistant (including permanent press or durable press and wash and wear), flame-resistant, shrink-resistant, moth-resistant, soil-release, water-repellent, water-proof, and crisp finish.
7. "Colorfast" is a treatment that fixes the color into the yarns of fabric so it will maintain its exact color throughout the life of the garment. This protects colors from washing out in the laundry or dry cleaning process, sun fading, or fading due to perspiration.
8. Check hangtags or labels on your clothes as you purchase them for any fabric finishes. Consider how different the life of the garment might be without these finishes.
9. Use Fabric Finishes information sheet for additional information or made into a transparency to aid discussion.