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*What the*

**NEW  
FIBER  
LABELS**

*Mean to You*

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Cooperative Extension Service

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10M — February, 1960 — Circular 277

## FOR CLUES TO CLOTHING CARE—READ YOUR FIBER LABEL

Generic (Family Name)	Trade Names	Clues to Care	
<p>Cotton Linen</p> <p>Rayon</p>	<p>(Colorsealed Cupioni Bemberg Fortisan Cordura Coloray Colorspun Jet spun</p>	<p>May be washed and ironed without special care. Avoid chlorine bleaches if resin finished unless the label says it is safe to use them.</p> <p>Remove oily stains before washing resin finished fabrics; washing may set these stains permanently.</p>	<p>Rayon needs more careful handling when wet than cotton and linen.</p> <p>Coloray, Colorspun, and Jet spun are solution-dyed rayons and highly resistant to fading.</p>
<p>Silk Wool</p>		<p>Cool temperatures in washing and pressing prevent yellowing.</p>	<p>To prevent felting of wool, use low agitation in washing machine and avoid rubbing when wet.</p>
<p>Rubber Spandex</p>	<p>(Lastex Lycra Vyrene</p>	<p>Do not expose to excessive sunlight or heat; to oils, fats, or greases (lotions or creams). Wash frequently to remove body oils. Avoid constant overstretch, such as wearing the same girdle every day.</p>	

<p>Acrylic (Orlon (Acrilan (Creslan</p> <p>Modacrylic (Verel (Dynel</p> <p>Nytril (Darvan</p> <p>Nylon (Caprolan (Dacron (Teron (Vycron (Kodel</p>	<p>Require low temperature in drying and pressing. Water-borne stains can be wiped or washed off easily. Remove oily stains before washing; washing may set these stains permanently. Clothing requires little pressing; sweaters do not require blocking. Moth and mildew-resistant.</p>	<p>Dynel is more sensitive to heat than the others. Nylon is the strongest and most durable. Kodel gives less problem in letting down a hem because the crease will not show.</p>
<p>Acetate (Celanese (Estron (Chromspun (Colorsealed (Celaperm</p> <p>Triacetate (Arnel</p>	<p>Require low temperature in drying and pressing. Water-borne stains can be wiped off easily. Remove oily stains before washing; washing may set these stains permanently. Dissolved by acetone, paint remover, and fingernail polish remover. Sensitive to fading from atmospheric gases. Moth and mildew-resistant.</p>	<p>Chromspun, Colorsealed, and Celaperm are solution-dyed acetates—highly resistant to fading. Arnel can take higher pressing temperatures than acetate.</p>

Have you taken a good look at the new labels on clothing and fabrics recently? Did you find new terms that you had never seen before? Did you find fiber content by percentage?

If you did, these labels have been placed on merchandise to meet requirements of the new Fiber Identification Law that became effective March 3, 1960. This law was passed "to protect producers and consumers against mis-branding and false advertising."

You have benefited in the past from a labeling act that requires fiber percentage for wool. However, this will not be as simple as it was with wool because there are many man-made fibers. You are familiar with the natural fibers such as wool, silk, cotton and linen but perhaps you do not know the synthetics by their generic (family) names. The new law requires that each textile fiber product must carry a label that gives the generic (family) name and percentages by weight of the fibers in the product.

You may have been confused in the past with the many trade names of fabrics, fibers and finishes and were unable to distinguish one from another. To eliminate this confusion, you will now only need to know 16 generic names for man-made fibers instead of hundreds of

trade names. These are the ABC's of fabric identification.

The many new blends and combination fibers have brought many trade names that may mean little to you concerning care of fabrics or what you expect from them. Instead of buying a crease-resistant cotton and dacron dress, you now will identify it as a 65% Polyester (Dacron), 35% cotton. Polyester is the generic name. You can then be assured of its crease-resistancy when you see the percentage of Polyester attached to the new fiber, Teron. You then will know that it has characteristics similar to Dacron.

Fibers with the same generic name will have certain definite characteristics that will help you to care for them. The new label thus will be important to your dry cleaner as well as yourself.

The new labels still may carry trade names as to the finish used on a fabric such as Sanforized, Tebelized or Regulated Cotton. Reliable labels still will probably tell you something about care.

Fiber content is not the only important thing concerning wearability and care of fabric. The construction of the yarn itself, the way the yarns are woven or knitted, or the way it is made into a garment also play an important role.

You may find this information useful tacked on your utility room wall for ready reference as you wash and iron garments.