

SOFTLINES

CARE LABEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Weaving quality into your clothing, textiles and footwear





ASSURE LASTING QUALITY OF YOUR TEXTILES & APPAREL

Care labels provide information to consumers and apparel caregivers about the best cleaning procedures to be used for that particular combination of fabric, thread, decoration and construction techniques. Following the instructions on care labels provides assurance that the appearance and the fit of the garment will be maintained after repeated cleaning treatments.

As manufacturers, importers and retailers, your brand value is dependent on the enduring quality of your products. How do you ensure that care labels placed on your product are understandable for consumers and apparel caregivers, while simultaneously meeting the national and international trade requirements?

Many countries have mandatory standards for care label instructions that apply to either apparel or soft home furnishing products. Some common countries are:

- Australia: Textiles - Care Labeling
- Canada: Care Labeling of Textiles (voluntary system and based on the industry best practice)
- China: Chinese Textile - Care Labeling Code Using Symbols
- European Union: Textiles - Care Labeling Code Using Symbols
- Japan: Care Labeling of Textile Goods
- USA: Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel and Certain Piece Goods as amended - 16 CFR 423





At Intertek, we work with brands and retailers around the world to assure their textile and apparel products maintain quality and durability through care label testing. With our thorough understanding and expertise in the industry, we offer care label verification or recommendation, supported by related testing.

Care label testing

- Appearance after washing/ drycleaning
- Colourfastness to washing/ drycleaning
- Colourfastness to chlorine bleaching
- Colourfastness to non-chlorine bleaching
- Dimensional stability to washing/ drycleaning

Care label verification or recommendation

- Content on care label
- Placement of care label
- Language of labelling



AUSTRALIA

CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS

Permanent Care Label Requirement in Australia is that the wording of the label shall be in English and clearly legible.

- A. Position of label attachment must be "clearly visible" or "accessible".
- B. For articles which are packaged, displayed or folded in such a way that the information is inaccessible, an extra care label must be given on a wing ticket or adhesive label, or in a pamphlet accompanying the articles.
- C. For a label sewn in more than one side, the label shall have similar shrinkage characteristics to the base fabric.
- D. For an adhesive label, it should not produce any bubbling or delamination when the garment is subject to cleansing treatment.

The labeling system consists of:

- 1) Washing temperature (cold, warm, hot, very hot, boil)
- 2) Agitation (hand wash, short machine wash, gentle machine wash, machine wash)
Note: Where appropriate, phrases stating washing temperature and agitation may be combined to form a concise phrase, e.g. warm hand wash, hot machine.
- 3) Drying method (may be tumble dried - cold/warm/hot, drip dry, dry flat, line dry)
- 4) Bleaching instruction
- 5) Ironing (do not iron, cool, warm, hot, steam)
- 6) Drycleaning methods are expressed in symbol as listed in below table:

| DRYCLEANING SYMBOL | |
|--------------------|--|
| | Dryclean in any solvent normally used for drycleaning. |
| | Dryclean in perchloroethylene, and all solvents listed for the symbol |
| | Dryclean in accordance with but with restricted water amount or mechanical action or temperature during cleaning or drying. |
| | Dryclean in white spirit or Trifluorotrchloroethane. |
| | Dryclean in accordance with but with restricted water amount or mechanical action or temperature during cleaning or drying. |
| | Do not dryclean. |

These symbols are to be used in conjunction with the phrase (Drycleanable / Dryclean only/ Drycleaning recommended).



CANADA

CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS

Providing care information is voluntary for the Canada market and is based on the CGSB standard that was revised in 2003. The current version has symbols in black and white replacing the previous “traffic light” colors of green, amber, and red. The new standard is harmonized with the American and international standards for care labeling using five basic symbols which must appear in the sequence: washing, bleaching, drying, ironing, professional textile care. Any additional information must appear in both English and French.

| GUIDE TO APPAREL CARE SYMBOLS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Wash | Do Not Wash | <p>Machine Wash Cycles</p> Normal Permanent Press Delicate/Gentle Hand Wash Do Not Wring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Water Temperatures</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>(Maximum)</td> <td>(200F)</td> <td>(160F)</td> <td>(140F)</td> <td>(120F)</td> <td>(105F)</td> <td>(65F-85F)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Symbol(s)</td> <td>95°C ●●●●</td> <td>70°C ●●●</td> <td>60°C ●●●</td> <td>50°C ●●●</td> <td>40°C ●●</td> <td>30°C ●</td> </tr> </table> | | | (Maximum) | (200F) | (160F) | (140F) | (120F) | (105F) | (65F-85F) | Symbol(s) | 95°C ●●●● | 70°C ●●● | 60°C ●●● | 50°C ●●● | 40°C ●● | 30°C ● |
| (Maximum) | (200F) | (160F) | (140F) | (120F) | (105F) | (65F-85F) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Symbol(s) | 95°C ●●●● | 70°C ●●● | 60°C ●●● | 50°C ●●● | 40°C ●● | 30°C ● | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bleach | Do Not Bleach | Any Bleach When Needed Only Non-Chlorine Bleach When Needed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry | Do Not Tumble Dry Do Not Dry (Used with Do Not Wash) | <p>Tumble Dry Cycles</p> Normal Permanent Press Delicate/Gentle Line Dry/Hang to Dry Dry Flat <p>Heat Setting</p> Any Heat High Medium Low No Heat/Air Drip Dry In the Shade | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Iron | Do Not Iron or Press | <p>Iron-Dry or Steam</p> 200°C (390F) High 150°C (300F) Medium 110°C (230F) Low No Steam (Added to Iron) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional Textile Care | Do Not Dry-clean Do Not Wet-Clean | <p>Dry-clean - Normal Cycle</p> Any Solvent Except Trichloroethylene Petroleum Solvent Only Wet-Clean | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



CHINA

CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS

National Textile Base Standard Technical Sub-committee discussed and voted for revision of GB/T 8685 in the Huangshan Annual Technical Meeting in April 2008. An updated standard GB/T 8685-2008 was issued and effective from 1st March 2009.

A permanent label shall include symbols of washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and professional cleaning in sequence. Sufficient and appropriate symbols shall be used to ensure that garment will not be damaged during cleaning process. Additional text in Chinese can be used to clarify the instructions.

| SYMBOL | WASHING PROCESS | SYMBOL | NATURAL DRYING PROCESS |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| | - maximum washing temperature 95°C normal process | | - line drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 70°C normal process | | - drip line drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 60°C normal process | | - flat drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 60°C mild process | | - drip flat drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 50°C normal process | | - line drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 50°C mild process | | - drip line drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C normal process | | - flat drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C mild process | | - drip flat drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C very mild process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 30°C normal process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 30°C mild process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 30°C very mild process | | |
| | - wash by hand maximum temperature 40°C | | |
| | - do not wash | | |
| SYMBOL | BLEACHING PROCESS | SYMBOL | IRONING PROCESS |
| | - any bleaching agent allowed | | - iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 200°C |
| | - only oxygen / non-chlorine bleach allowed | | - iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 150°C |
| | - do not bleach | | - iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 110°C without steam steam ironing may cause irreversible damage |
| | | | - do not iron |
| SYMBOL | TUMBLE DRYING PROCESS | SYMBOL | PROFESSIONAL TEXTILE CARE PROCESS |
| | - tumble drying possible normal temperature | | - professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F normal process |
| | - tumble drying possible maximum exhaust temperature 80°C | | - professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F mild process |
| | - tumble drying possible drying at lower temperature maximum exhaust temperature 60°C | | - professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C, flash point between 38°C and 70°C) normal process |
| | - do not tumble dry | | - professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C, flash point between 38°C and 70°C) mild process |
| | | | - do not dry clean |
| | | | - professional wet cleaning normal process |
| | | | - professional wet cleaning mild process |
| | | | - professional wet cleaning very mild process |



EUROPE

CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS

The ISO care labeling standard ISO 3758 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, Textiles, Subcommittee SC2, Cleansing, finishing, and water resistance tests. The care symbols used in this standard are based on the Ginetex labelling system, and the symbols are registered as international trademarks. GINETEX has 18 member countries, the national committees are given a mandate to represent GINETEX to ensure the correct use of the care symbols in their national territory. For details, please visit <http://ginetex.info/ginetex/>.

The first and second editions ISO 3758 were published in 1991 and 2005. The third edition ISO 3758:2012 has been published and replaces the previous version of the standard (ISO 3758:2005). Key changes are the addition of symbols for natural drying processes and the change of 'Do not bleach' symbol. The previous version used a blackened triangle; in the 2012 version this has now reverted back to a lined version. The care symbols used in ISO 3758: 2012 consist of 5 main treatments and shall appear in the order washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and professional textile care.

| SYMBOL WASHING PROCESS | | SYMBOL NATURAL DRYING PROCESS | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | - maximum washing temperature 95°C normal process | | - line drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 70°C normal process | | - drip line drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 60°C normal process | | - flat drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 60°C mild process | | - drip flat drying |
| | - maximum washing temperature 50°C normal process | | - line drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 50°C mild process | | - drip line drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 50°C mild process | | - flat drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C normal process | | - drip flat drying in the shade |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C mild process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C very mild process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 40°C very mild process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 30°C normal process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 30°C mild process | | |
| | - maximum washing temperature 30°C very mild process | | |
| | - wash by hand maximum temperature 40°C | | |
| | - do not wash | | |
| SYMBOL BLEACHING PROCESS | | SYMBOL IRONING PROCESS | |
| | - any bleaching agent allowed | | - iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 200°C |
| | - only oxygen / non-chlorine bleach allowed | | - iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 150°C |
| | - do not bleach | | - iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 110°C without steam steam ironing may cause irreversible damage |
| | | | - do not iron |
| SYMBOL TUMBLE DRYING PROCESS | | SYMBOL PROFESSIONAL TEXTILE CARE PROCESS | |
| | - tumble drying possible normal temperature maximum exhaust temperature 80°C | | - professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F normal process |
| | - tumble drying possible drying at lower temperature maximum exhaust temperature 60°C | | - professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F mild process |
| | - do not tumble dry | | - professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C, flash point between 38°C and 70°C) normal process |
| | | | - professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C, flash point between 38°C and 70°C) mild process |
| | | | - do not dry clean |
| | | | - professional wet cleaning normal process |
| | | | - professional wet cleaning mild process |
| | | | - professional wet cleaning very mild process |
| | | | - do not professional wet clean |



JAPAN

CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS

The Japanese care labeling JIS L 0001:2014, effective since 1st December, 2016, is written on the basis of ISO care labeling code ISO 3758:2012 which features five main treatments that shall appear in the order of washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and professional textile care. According to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Act, a care label should be permanently attached to most household goods.

| SYMBOL WASHING PROCESS | |
|------------------------|---|
| | Maximum washing temperature 95 °C, normal process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 70 °C, normal process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 60 °C, normal process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 60 °C, mild process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 50 °C, normal process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 50 °C, mild process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 40 °C, normal process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 40 °C, mild process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 40 °C, very mild process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 30 °C, normal process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 30 °C, mild process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 30 °C, very mild process washing in a washing machine |
| | Maximum washing temperature 40 °C, washing by hand |
| | Do not wash |

| SYMBOL BLEACHING PROCESS | |
|--------------------------|---|
| | Chlorine and oxygen/non-chlorine bleach allowed |
| | Only oxygen/non-chlorine bleach allowed |
| | Do not bleach |

| SYMBOL TUMBLE DRYING PROCESS | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | Tumble drying possible Normal temperature: exhaust temperature max. 80 °C |
| | Tumble drying possible Low temperature: exhaust temperature max. 60 °C |
| | Do not tumble dry |

| SYMBOL NATURAL DRYING PROCESS | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Line drying |
| | Drip line drying |
| | Flat drying |
| | Drip flat drying |
| | Line drying in the shade |
| | Drip line drying in the shade |
| | Flat drying in the shade |
| | Drip flat drying in the shade |

| SYMBOL IRONING PROCESS | |
|------------------------|--|
| | Iron at maximum sole-plate temperature of 200 °C |
| | Iron at maximum sole-plate temperature of 150 °C |
| | Iron at maximum sole-plate temperature of 110 °C without steam |
| | Do not iron |

| SYMBOL PROFESSIONAL TEXTILE CARE PROCESS | |
|--|---|
| | Professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F Normal process |
| | Professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F Mild process |
| | Professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150 °C and 210 °C, flash point equal to or higher than 38 °C) Normal process |
| | Professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150 °C and 210 °C, flash point equal to or higher than 38 °C) Mild process |
| | Do not dry clean |
| | Professional wet cleaning Normal process |
| | Professional wet cleaning Mild process |
| | Professional wet cleaning Very mild process |
| | Do not professional wet clean |



UNITED STATES

CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS

According to the Federal Trade Commission's Care Label Rule, care information shall be provided by care instructions, or care symbols in the ASTM D5489-96c standard. Whether composed of words or symbols, care instructions are to appear in the following order of use:

1. Machine Wash/Hand Wash
2. Washing Temperature (hot/warm/cold)
3. Washing Cycle (delicate/permanent press/normal)
4. Bleaching Instruction (do not bleach/only non-chlorine bleach). Not required if both chlorine and non-chlorine bleach can be used.
5. Drying Instruction - (tumble dry/high/medium/low, line dry, flat dry, drip dry)
6. Ironing (do not iron/cool iron/warm iron/hot iron). Ironing instructions are not mandatory if the item is not expected to be ironed.

7. Warnings (wash separately, wash before wearing, etc.)
8. Dryclean (cycle/solvent)
9. Warn about what would harm the garment

In addition to the care label instructions, manufacturers and retailers must provide labels that:

1. Remain permanently attached and legible for the useful life of the product
2. Can be easily seen or found by the consumer at the point of sale. If the product is packaged so that consumer cannot find the label, care information must also appear on the outside of the package or on a hang tag.

| ASTM GUIDE TO CARE SYMBOLS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|------|-----|-----|-----|----|---|--|
| Wash | Machine Wash Cycles Normal Permanent Press Delicate/Gentle Hand Wash | Water Temperatures <table border="1"> <tr> <td>(Maximum)</td> <td>(200F)</td> <td>(160F)</td> <td>(140F)</td> <td>(120F)</td> <td>(105F)</td> <td>(65F-85F)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Symbol(s)</td> <td>95C</td> <td>70C</td> <td>60C</td> <td>50C</td> <td>40C</td> <td>30C</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>●●●●</td> <td>●●●</td> <td>●●●</td> <td>●●●</td> <td>●●</td> <td>●</td> </tr> </table> | (Maximum) | (200F) | (160F) | (140F) | (120F) | (105F) | (65F-85F) | Symbol(s) | 95C | 70C | 60C | 50C | 40C | 30C | | ●●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●● | ● | Warning symbols for laundering Do Not Wash Do Not Bleach Do Not Dry (Used with Do Not Wash) Do Not Iron |
| | (Maximum) | (200F) | (160F) | (140F) | (120F) | (105F) | (65F-85F) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Symbol(s) | 95C | 70C | 60C | 50C | 40C | 30C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ●●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bleach | Any Bleach When Needed Only Non-Chlorine Bleach When Needed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry | Tumble Dry Cycles Normal Permanent Press Delicate/Gentle Line Dry/Hang to Dry | Tumble Dry Heat Setting Any Heat High Medium Low No Heat/Air Drip Dry Dry Flat | Additional Instructions (in symbols or words) Do Not Wring Do Not Tumble Dry In the Shade (Added to Line Dry, Drip Dry or Dry Flat) No Steam (Added to Iron) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Iron | Iron-dry or Steam Maximum Temperature 200C (390F) High 150C (300F) Medium 110C (230F) Low | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dryclean | Dryclean - Normal Cycle Any Solvent Any Solvent Except Trichloroethylene Petroleum Solvent Only | Do Not Dryclean | Dryclean - Additional Instructions Short Cycle Reduce Moisture Low Heat No Steam Finishing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |


Note: This figure illustrates the symbols to use for laundering and drycleaning instructions. As a minimum, laundering instructions should include, in order, four symbols: washing, bleaching, drying and ironing; drycleaning instructions shall include one symbol. Additional words may be used to clarify the instructions.





Americas

Suite H
545 E. Algonquin Rd
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
United States

 +1 800 WORLD LAB

 northamerica.softlines@intertek.com

 intertek.com

EMEA

The Warehouse
Brewery Lane
Leigh
WN7 2RJ
United Kingdom

+44 1942 265 700

uk.softlines@intertek.com

intertek.com

Asia Pacific

1/F, Garment Centre
576 Castle Peak Road
Kowloon
Hong Kong

+852 2173 8888

hongkong.softlines@intertek.com

intertek.com.hk