

Garment Labeling Instructions

Participants in the Fiber Fair need to comply with Federal Law by providing fiber content and care labels with all garments they wish to sell. These labels must:

- ❖ Provide a list of materials used to make the garment.
- ❖ Provide complete instructions about regular care for the garment, or provide warnings if the garment cannot be cleaned without harm.
- ❖ Warn consumers about cleaning procedures that appear to follow the instructions on the label, but that would harm the product. For example, if a pair of pants is labeled for washing, consumers may assume they can iron them. If the pants would be harmed by ironing, the label should read, "Do not iron."
- ❖ Ensure that care labels remain attached and legible throughout the useful life of the product.

Fiber content and care instructions are necessary for apparel worn to cover or protect the body. Exempt apparel: shoes, gloves, hats, handkerchiefs, belts, suspenders and neckties. Also exempt are items used for making apparel at home.

Labels for clothing must have a washing instruction or a drycleaning instruction. Consider that consumers like having washing instructions for items that can be washed. If you prefer, you can give instructions for both washing and drycleaning. Sometimes, because of the particular combination of components, a garment can neither be safely washed nor drycleaned. The label on such a garment must say "Do not wash - Do not dryclean."

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1. Washing by hand or by machine

The label must say whether the product should be washed by hand or machine. The label also must give a water temperature setting if regular use of hot water will harm the product.

2. Bleaching

If all commercially available bleaches can be used on a regular basis without harming the product, the label does not have to mention bleach. If using chlorine bleach on a regular basis would harm the product, but using non-chlorine bleach on a regular basis would not, the label must say, "Only non-chlorine bleach, when needed." If all commercially available bleaches would harm the product when used on a regular basis, the label must say "No bleach" or "Do not bleach."

3. Drying

The label must say whether the product should be dried by machine or some other method. Unless regular use of high temperature will harm the product when machine dried, it is not necessary to indicate a temperature setting.

4. Ironing

Ironing information must be given on a care label if ironing will be needed on a regular basis. If regular use of a hot iron will not harm a product, it is not necessary to indicate a temperature setting.

5. Warnings

If a care procedure on one product could cause harm to another product being washed with it, a warning must be included. For example, if an item is not colorfast, the label must say, "Wash with like colors" or "Wash separately."

6. Drycleaning Instructions

A simple "dryclean" instruction may be used if all commercially available types of solvent can be used and if the drycleaning process can be used on the garment with no modifications. Remember that "Dryclean Only" is a warning that the garment cannot be washed. You may label garments "Dryclean Only," but only if you have evidence that washing will damage the garment.