

Fiber Fair: Garment Labeling Instructions & Guidelines

Sew care labels to garments and pillows, as required by law. Please note fiber content and care requirements. You may wish to include product care labeling on other items to provide additional information such as cleaning/care recommendations. Please attach the information to the item on your personal/business card or another tag. Do not use the bag of the sales tag, as it will not be given to the purchaser.

Garments: Participants in Fiber Fair must 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 garments, or provide warnings if the garment cannot be cleaned without harm.
- Include a washing or dry cleaning instruction. In rare cases, a garment cannot be safely washed or dry cleaned. In that instance, the label must say, "Do not wash; do not dry clean."
- Warn consumers about cleaning procedures that appear to follow the instructions on the label, but would actually harm the product. Example: If a tailored shirt is labeled for washing, consumers may assume they can iron it. If the shirt would be harmed by ironing, the label should read, "Do not iron."
- Remain attached and legible throughout the use-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, ties. Also exempt: items used for making apparel at home.

Labeling guidelines:

1. **Washing by hand or by machine.** The label must say whether the product should be washed by hand or machine. 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 harm the product, it is necessary to indicate a temperature setting.
5. **Warnings.** If a care procedure on one product could cause harm to another product being cleaned with it, a warning must be included. Example: If an item is not colorfast, the label must say, “Wash with like colors” or “Wash separately.”
6. **Dry cleaning instructions.** Label the product “Dry clean” if all commercially available types of solvent can be used and all dry cleaning processes can be used without modifications. Use “Dry clean only” if the garment cannot be washed and washing will damage the item.