

## *Fabric Care & Cleaning*

Understand the difference between fabrics and learn how to care for them.

### **Polyester Print Fabrics**

Polyester print fabrics are made from the synthetic material polyester. Polyester begins as a liquid and is extruded into polyester fibers. These fibers are spun into yarn and woven together to make the fabric. Then a definitive pattern of color is printed onto it. The color bonds with the fiber so as to resist friction, fading and being washed away. Polyester is naturally water resistant and is generally given a fire resistant finish.

**Cleaning & Maintenance:** For common dirt, suntan oil or lotion promptly remove soil with a solution consisting of two capfuls of mild liquid soap per gallon of water. Be liberal with solution and scrub with a soft brush. Rinse thoroughly. Do not use bleach or use harsh detergents under any circumstances.

### **PVC / Poly / Acrylic Blend & Vinyl Coated Poly**

These fabrics are made up with a core of either polyester or a polyester and acrylic blend. This core is then coated with PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride). The PVC coating liquid contains chemicals that create the desired color as well as make it water, mildew and fire resistance.

**Cleaning & Maintenance:** Spot wash by sponging briskly with a lukewarm solution of mild soap and water. Rinse thoroughly to remove soap. Allow to air-dry.

### **Olefin Fabrics**

Olefin begins as a liquid, then is run through a machine called a spinneret, which forces the product into a long fiber through small holes. This fiber is then spun to make the yarn that will be woven to make the fabric. Because olefin resists dyeing, any dye must be added at the beginning while it is still a liquid. It is highly favored due to its easy, inexpensive manufacturing process. Olefin is relatively environmentally friendly due to the few by products produced during manufacturing and is easily recycled. Olefin tends to be tough, hard wearing, colorfast and stain resistant. Materials made with olefin tend to hold their shape extremely well and weathers well in the sun. Olefin is also highly resistant to deterioration from chemicals and moisture.

**Cleaning & Maintenance:** Clean any spills with a moist sponge quickly. To maintain the look of your fabric periodically wash it down with a soft sponge and mild detergent and water mixture. Rinse thoroughly.

### **Solution Dyed Acrylic Fabrics**

With solution-dyed acrylic fabrics, the coloring actually takes place before the yarn is ever created. A liquid acrylic solution is combined with precisely-determined colors, and this colored liquid is then extruded and transformed into fiber. The fiber never exists in a colorless state. This fiber is then spun into yarn, using a complex process that prevents color contamination. Since the color is part of the makeup of each fiber it will retain its original color and vibrancy for years to come. Solution dyed acrylic fabrics are stain resistant (including bleach) and mildew resistant.

**Cleaning & Maintenance:** Spot wash by sponging briskly with a soapy solution of natural soap in lukewarm water. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove soap and then allow to air-dry. For stubborn stains or suntan lotion, use a fabric spot remover. Follow directions on container. Rinse thoroughly with clean water, and air-dry. To clean mildew stains, prepare a mild solution of one cup bleach, plus two capfuls of natural soap per gallon of water. Spray on entire area and allow to soak in. If necessary, scrub vigorously with a sponge or clean cloth. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and air-dry.

### **Textiline Fabrics**

Textiline, a registered process and brand of Twitchell Corp. is a polyester fiber that has been coated with PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride). The PVC coating liquid contains chemicals to achieve the desired color as well as water, mildew and fire resistance.

**Cleaning & Maintenance:** Oil or Grease can be removed using bleach and rubbing alcohol. In the presence of mildew use a strong liquid detergent and warm water with bleach. If beer or coffee are spilled use a strong liquid detergent with warm water and white vinegar. Berry Juices, Wine or Blood can be cleaned using a strong liquid detergent, warm water and ammonia.

### **FAQ**

#### **What is color fastness?**

Color fastness is having color that will not run or fade with washing or wear.

#### **How often should I be cleaning my fabrics?**

Cleaning your furniture and fabric is all relative to how it is used, the whether it is exposed to and what kinds of things it comes into contact with. Therefore we can not definitively give a set cleaning schedule but recommend cleaning as needed. It is good to keep in mind that mold and mildew will not grow on any fabric or fiber, but it will grow on dirt. Therefore we recommend thoroughly cleaning your fabrics periodically with a mixture of warm water and mild detergent to deter the possible build up of dirt.

#### **What do the different fabric grades mean?**

Our fabrics are broken down into different fabric grades by cost. This cost is determined by the mill who makes the fabric.

#### **Why did the grade of certain fabrics change this year?**

Again, the cost of fabrics is determined by the mill who creates the fabric. The mill may decide to change the cost of that fabric for numerous reasons. If the price change is significant enough we will change the grade of the fabric accordingly.

#### **Why can't all fabrics be used as slings, or on cushions?**

This is determined by the make up of the fabric. Woven and vinyl blends make great slings due to the strength of the materials and the weave. Cushion fabrics were not designed or intended for the stress of a sling. Although most sling fabrics can be used for cushions, some may not because the weave is too large or the fabric is too thick.