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*Finishes
for
Today's
Fabrics*

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Finishes for Today's Fabrics

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The textile world of today is complex. No longer can you identify a fabric merely by sight or touch. Special treatments given to fabrics have altered the appearance, properties, and care of many familiar fabrics so that you must read the label to identify them.

If a fabric has received special treatment, it will be indicated on the label. A label should tell you:

1. How the fabric will perform (resist wrinkles, repel water and/or stains, etc.)
2. How to care for the fabric with this special treatment.
3. How long this treatment can be expected to last.

Finishes are one type of special treatment given to fabrics. A finish is any process that is applied to a fabric after it has been knitted or woven. Its purpose is to improve the properties of a fabric by adding a quality which it lacks or by counteracting an undesirable quality.

Finishes cannot be seen by the consumer, but their effects are evident in the behavior of the fabric. Often one finish will serve more than one purpose. For example, water-repellent finishes may also resist soil, spots, and stains.

The intended use of the fabric determines which type of finish is applied. A consumer who knows the fabric requirements for a specific use and is familiar with the special finishes available, is able to match use and finish to suit her needs.

Inside are some of the more common finishes with their trademarks.

Finish	Characteristics
Antiseptic: Trademarks: Eversan Hygienized Permacide Sanitized Vita-Fresh	Provides resistance to bacteria. Prevents decay and damage from perspiration. Reduces development of odors. Used on socks, shoes, foundation garments, and some fabrics.
Antistatic: Trademarks: Astonized Negastat	Provides temporary resistance to accumulation of static electricity. Many antistatic finishes are not durable but can be applied at home.
Bonded: No specific trademark; used by many fabric producers	Joins one fabric to another to create a pre-lined, and in some cases, reversible fabric. Fabrics that heretofore were not appropriate for clothing can be used for apparel. Re-emphasizes properties of fabric. Backing fabric should require same care as face fabric.
Colorfastness: Trademarks: Color-locked Spun-dyed Vat-dyed	Protects against loss of color caused by either washing, dry cleaning, sunlight, or perspiration. (Check label to know against which condition color will be protected.) Colorfastness can also be achieved in solution dyed rayons with trademarks such as Chromspun, Coloray, Jet-spun, etc.

<p>Crease-resistant: Trademarks: Cyana Superset Everglaze Tebilized Unidure Wrinkl-Shed</p>	<p>Helps fabric recover from wrinkling after wear. Helps to minimize wrinkling of fabric. Treated fabrics iron or finish easily.</p>
<p>Crisp: Trademarks: Bellmanized Fresh-Tex</p>	<p>Finish applied to cotton, rayon, and nylon sheers. Keep corners of sheer fabrics from rolling. Provides crispness during wear, laundering, and dry cleaning.</p>
<p>Flame-resistant: Trademarks: Blaze X Perma-proof Pyroset</p>	<p>Prevents fabric from supporting flame. Inhibits burning, but does not mean fabric is fireproof. A new treatment created by USDA scientists is called THPC method.</p>
<p>Fume Fading: Trademarks: Airfast Anti-fume Neufume</p>	<p>Used particularly on acetate. Prevents discoloration of fabric from atmospheric gases.</p>
<p>Insulated or reflective: Trademarks: Milium Temp-Resisto</p>	<p>Coating of metallic particles which adhere to underside of fabric. Intended to provide warmth without weight, but questionable as to effectiveness or durability.</p>
<p>Mildew resistant: Trademarks: Don Dew Formoset Fresh-Tex</p>	<p>Prevents growth of mildew and mold. Used on cotton, rayon, and linen which are susceptible to mildew.</p>

Finish	Characteristics
Moth resistant: Trademarks: Mitin Moth Snub Wool gard	Makes wool resistant to attack by moths and carpet beetles. Processes differ in their resistance to laundering and dry cleaning and in the length of time effective.
Permanent Press: Trademarks: Burmcrease Conepress Koratron Never-press Permapress Presslokt Super-crease	Finish applied most frequently to blends of cotton and synthetics as well as wool, stretch fabrics, and knits either before or after fabric is made into garment. Permits garment to be laundered without ironing. Special instructions necessary for laundering procedure, altering, and construction techniques. Finish often weakens strength and abrasion resistance of 100% cotton so check label for fiber content.
Shrinkage resistant: Trademarks: Cyana Shrinkage Control (cotton and rayon) Dylanize (woolens) Lanaset (woolens) Sanforized (cottons) Sanforlan (woolens and blends) Sanforset (rayons and blends)	Resistance to shrinkage can be achieved by either mechanical or chemical methods. Controls amount of shrinkage. Label which specifies amount of shrinkage is better guarantee than one which claims fabric is "pre-shrunk;" "guaranteed not to shrink more than 1%" is good guarantee.

<p>Spot and Stain resistant: Trademarks: Hydro-Pruf Scotchgard Sylmer Unisec Zepel</p>	<p>Some of these finishes make fabrics resist water-borne stains, some oil-borne stains, while some protect against both types of stains if treated immediately. Check label for characteristics and durability of finish to dry cleaning and laundering.</p>
<p>Water Repellent: Trademarks: Cravanette Permel Plus Sylmer Zelan</p>	<p>Makes fabric water resistant but not water-proof. Allows fabric to breathe; therefore, comfortable in warm weather. Finish may be removed by laundering or dry cleaning.</p>
<p>Water-proof: No specific trademark</p>	<p>Rubberized finish applied to fabric to close pores and prevent passage of water. Prevents fabric from breathing; therefore, hot to wear. Some of these materials stiffen in dry cleaning and should be wet cleaned.</p>
<p>Wash and Wear, Drip-Dry, or Minimum Care: Trademarks: Belfast Everglaze Disciplined Cotton Minicare Regulated Cotton Sanforized-Plus Super-Kwik-Kare</p>	<p>Minimum care properties can be achieved by application of a chemical finish, by type of fabric construction, or by fiber included in garment. Chemical resins are applied to cotton, rayon, and linen to make garment wearable after laundering. Wash and wear cottons are resistant to rot. They are not heat sensitive and can be washed and dried at high temperatures. For chlorine-retentive finishes, use a peroxide or oxygen type bleach.</p>

