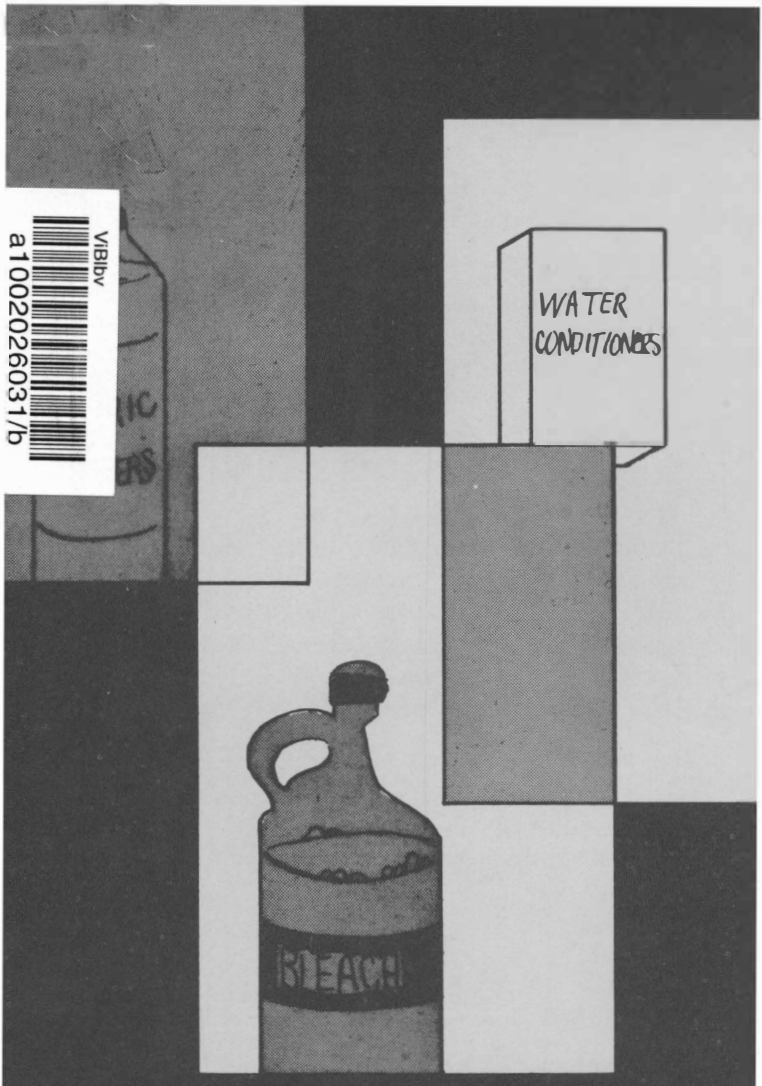

Laundry Products For Today's Fabrics

PUBLICATION 13
FEBRUARY 1968

EXTENSION DIVISION
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Laundry Products for Today's Fabrics

Bleaches

More and more homemakers are using bleaches in laundry, and many new types are being marketed. If the homemaker plans to use bleach, she should know how to select the best type for her purpose and how to use it to get best results.

What Are Bleaches?

Bleaches are chemicals added to the washing cycle to whiten fabrics, to aid in removing some stains and soils from white and dye-fast colored fabrics, and to disinfect laundry. (See Home & Garden Bulletin No. 97, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

Types of Bleaches

There are 2 types of bleaches: chlorine, and peroxy or oxygen types.

Chlorine bleaches come in 2 forms, liquid and dry.

Chlorine

Liquid	Dry
Clorox	Beads O' Bleach (old formula)
White Sail	Star Dust
Fleecy White	Action
White Cross	Reward
Purex	

Peroxy or Oxygen Bleaches

(All in dry form)

Perborate	Persulfate
Dexol	Dri-Brite
Lestare Packets	Dri-Rite
Safety	All-Fabric Formula Beads O' Bleach
Shown	
Thanx	A-Penn

Publication 13
Cooperative Extension Service
Reprint February 1968
(Formerly Leaflet 292)

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. W. E. Skelton, Director of Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

Dry oxygen bleaches provide the greatest fabric safety, but are less effective in bleaching. Generally they are considered light-duty bleaches. Lestare, a peroxy bleach, is marketed in a soluble, easy-to-use package.

Persulfates are among the newer bleaches, but with the exception of All-Fabric Formula Beads O' Bleach, these will not be readily available until 1965.

What Type Bleach To Use

Chlorine bleaches cannot be used on all fabrics. They can be used on white synthetics, white and color-fast linens, and most cottons. Some cotton fabrics are treated with a resin finish to make them wash-and-wear; some resin finishes, but not all, retain chlorine bleach and cause fabrics to turn yellow.

Fabrics that cannot be washed with chlorine bleach are silk and wool, blends containing silk and wool, leather, some but not all of the new spandex fibers, and any fabric with a chlorine-retentive resin finish.

A recent Ohio State University study indicated that after 25 washings, dry chlorine bleach caused 32% strength loss for nylon compared with 39% strength loss from liquid chlorine. Cotton showed 15% loss from dry chlorine and 23% from liquid.

Oxygen-type bleaches are safe for all washable fibers, finishes, and dye-fast colors. They should never be used on non-color-fast fabrics and should be used with discretion on color-fast fabrics.

How Much To Use and When To Add It

Measure bleach carefully and follow the directions recommended on the package. Over-use weakens fabric.

Since detergents now contain brighteners, a new problem has developed in the use of liquid chlorine bleach. If the bleach is added at the beginning of the wash period, it works on the brightener rather than on soil in the clothes so that the laundry is

neither bleached nor brightened. This can be prevented by using a machine with an automatic bleach dispenser or by adding diluted bleach after the suds cycle has run about half its time.

Dry bleaches are slower acting and may be added at the start of the wash period.

Bleaches should be thoroughly rinsed from fabrics to avoid loss of textile strength and to remove odor.

Fabric Softeners

Newer laundry aids on the market are fabric softeners, not to be confused with water softeners or conditioners. Fabric softeners, available in liquid and powdered form, are effective in both hard and soft water, and for hand or machine washing.

What Fabric Softeners Do

Soften and improve the feel and appearance of fabrics.

Reduce static electricity in man-made fibers that tend to cling to the wearer and ride up in cold, dry weather.

Reduce absorbency of the fabric after prolonged use. Where this factor is important (towels, diapers, etc.), reduce the amount of fabric softener by half or use the full amount less often.

How To Use Fabric Softeners

Follow directions on package for amount to use. Over-use makes fabrics lose absorbency. If this happens, omit softener for several washings.

Use fabric softeners in the last rinse and never add it to the wash water. If bluing is used, the fabric softener should be added to a rinse following bluing. If starch is used, the fabric softener should be used in the last rinse before clothes are starched.

Water Softeners or Conditioners

Effectiveness of detergent in the wash water depends upon hardness of the water. The softer the water, the better it cleans,

the faster it wets the fabric, the softer the clothes, and the less detergent needed.

The home water supply may be softened by either mechanical or packaged softeners.

Packaged Water Softeners

Packaged water softeners come in 2 types, precipitating and non-precipitating.

The precipitating type settles the water hardness minerals to the bottom of the tub and clings to fabrics just as soap curd does. Non-precipitating types hold the minerals in solution and do not form scum.

Brown or yellow stains on fabrics may be caused by dissolved iron or manganese in the water combining with chlorine bleach. To prevent this, add a non-precipitating water softener to the wash water before adding chlorine bleach, or use an oxygen-type bleach.

If water softener is needed in the wash water, it is needed at least in the first rinse.

Precipitating	Non-Precipitating
Sal Soda	Calgon
Climalene	New Oaklite
Borax	Spring Rain
Raindrops	Tex
	Noctil

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