

RULES FOR CLOTHING CARE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS TO CHANGE... FTC TO ALLOW APPROVED CARE SYMBOLS

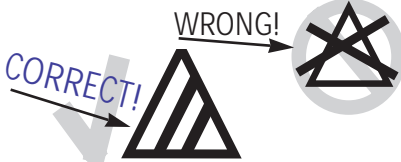
Beginning July 1, 1997, the Federal Trade Commission will permit apparel manufacturers to start using specific care symbols, in place of written instructions on permanent labels. The FTC will require manufacturers to include written instructions explaining what the symbols mean on hangtags or elsewhere for the first 18 months.

The care symbols that may be used beginning July 1, 1997 were developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). We urge you to purchase the 1996 Annual Book of ASTM Standards for the complete standard.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO CONFIRM THAT ALL YOUR CARE LABELS ARE IN COMPLIANCE.

Here is an example of a common compliance issue.

When using symbols to illustrate "non-chlorine bleach" the open triangle with an "X" symbol is *incorrect!*



When your garments are safe in some type of bleach, but not in chlorine bleach, *it is incomplete and therefore in violation of the FTC rule to say...*

"Do Not Use Chlorine Bleach" or "No Bleach".

Your care instructions *must say...*

"Non-chlorine bleach when needed"

The FTC recognized symbol for this instruction is

Extensive testing has shown that all washable apparel is safe in non-chlorine bleach. Therefore, machine washable apparel care instructions need to include, and/or use the care symbol for "non-chlorine bleach when needed".

GUIDE TO APPAREL/TEXTILE CARE SYMBOLS*

 Wash	Machine Wash Cycles Normal Permanent Press Delicate/Gentle	 Hand Wash	Warning Symbols for Laundering Do Not Wash Do Not Bleach Do Not Dry (used with Do Not Wash) Do Not Iron
	Water Temperatures (Maximum) (200F) (160F) (140F) (120F) (105F) (65F-85F) Symbol(s)		
 Bleach	 Any Bleach When Needed Only Non-Chlorine Bleach When Needed		
 Dry	Tumble Dry Cycles Normal Permanent Press Delicate/Gentle	 Line Dry / Hang to Dry Drip Dry Dry Flat	Additional Instructions (in Symbols or Words) Do Not Wring Do Not Tumble Dry In the shade (added to line dry, drip dry, or dry flat) No Steam (added to iron)
	Tumble Heat Settings Any Heat High Medium Low No Heat/Air		
 Iron	Iron-Dry or Steam Maximum Temperatures 200C (390F) High 150C (300F) Medium 110C (230F) Low		
 Dryclean	Dryclean - Normal Cycle Any Solvent Any Solvent Except Trichloroethylene Petroleum Solvent Only Do Not Dryclean	Dryclean - Additional Instructions Short Cycle Reduced Moisture Low Heat No Steam Finishing	

* This chart illustrates care symbols accepted by the Federal Trade Commission as part of a conditional exemption to the FTC Care Labeling Rule (16 CFR 423). This chart is referenced from ASTM D5489-96c, Fig. 1, Commercial and Home Laundering and Drycleaning Symbols, which illustrates the symbols to use for laundering and drycleaning instructions. As a minimum, laundering instruction shall include, in order, four symbols: washing, bleaching, drying, and ironing; and drycleaning instructions shall include one symbol. Additional words may be used to clarify language-dependent instructions.

We urge you to purchase the latest Annual Book of ASTM Standards that contains the complete symbol set from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

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NOW AVAILABLE FOR MAC OR WINDOWS
FTC CARE LABEL RULE REVISIONS & CARE SYMBOLS ON CD

Textile Industry Affairs is making available to the trade, at an industry cost of \$29, a CD that includes the complete care symbol set in BMP, EPS, TIF and PIC formats. Also included are official Federal Register notices and related documents on care label issues. Call, fax or email your request to Eric J. Essma, General Manager, Textile Industry Affairs.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS INFO ON THE INTERNET...
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