

Care: Looking after clothing

The main thing we all need to know is what fibres are used in the fabrics from which the clothes are made. Once we know this, we can decide things like 'Will it wash?', 'Will it crease?' Then when we have worn a particular garment, we are able to decide whether to hang it up, or whether folding will do.

Your task is to:

- ◆ set up a database or file-card index called 'Fabric Properties and Care';
- ◆ show that you understand about care labels and codes and how to care for at least one item of clothing.

Part 1 – Setting up your data set

What to do

- 1 On a PC use a database program to begin a database on 'Fabric Properties and Care'. Or use a set of file-cards with dividers to keep them in alphabetical order. Use these fields:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| * Fibre | * Tumble-dry code |
| * Fabric example | * Property 1 – insulation |
| * Clothing example | * Property 2 – wear resistance |
| * Wash-code | * Property 3 – absorbency |
| * Ironing code | * Property 4 – water resistance |
| * Bleach code | * Property 5 – resilience |
| * Dry-clean code | |

Student's Book:

Textiles pages 117-23

Time available:

Setting up your data set

30 minutes

Looking at care labels and clothes

40 minutes

Showing you understand

40 minutes

You will learn:

How to care for clothes made from different fabrics by investigating their care labels.

You will need:

PC with database software and printer

Or

Set of file-cards and dividers, and pen

Clothes with care labels to look at

Drawing paper, pencils, colour pens, pencils or paints

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| * Fibre | Nylon | * Tumble-dry code | Don't |
| * Fabric example | 100% Nylon | * Property 1 – insulation | Light |
| * Clothing example | Lining in Jacket | * Property 2 – wear resistance | Good |
| * Wash-code | 40° | * Property 3 – absorbency | None |
| * Ironing code | Don't | * Property 4 – water resistance | Very high |
| * Bleach code | Don't | * Property 5 – resilience | Creases but springs back |
| * Dry-clean code | Yes | | |

Part 2 – Looking at care-labels and clothes

What to do

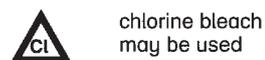
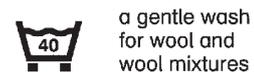
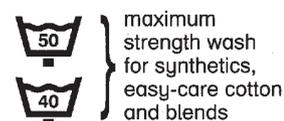
- 1 Look at the illustration with the care symbols and read what each symbol means.
- 2 Look at some of the clothes you are wearing or use for sports or other lessons. Don't forget to look at your jacket or coat. Some shoes and trainers have labels, too. A friend can help you to read labels in awkward places!
- 3 The label should tell you:
 - ◆ what fabrics the item of clothing is made of;
 - ◆ whether you can: wash it, dry clean it, tumble-dry it, bleach it, iron it;
 - ◆ if you can wash it, at what temperature and strength of wash;
 - ◆ if you can iron it, at what heat.
- 4 Enter the fibre/fabric name into your database or onto a new file-card.
- 5 Enter the name of the clothing example.
- 6 Add as many details of the care needs as you can – from the care-code label.
- 7 To help you fill in some of the property details, use the following sections in the *Students Book*:
 - ◆ Fabrics Chooser Chart, page 124;
 - ◆ Testing fabrics, page 125;
 - ◆ Explaining choices, page 126.

These are some of the common standard fabric care symbols and their meanings.

You will find them on washing machines and garment labels. Those on older machines and clothes may differ slightly.

Washing

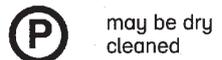
The numbers in the tubs give the maximum water temperature that can be used. The bars under the tubs indicate the strength of the wash.



Drying and ironing



Dry cleaning



✗ A cross through any symbol means 'DO NOT' Look out for 'wash separately' on labels too – it means what it says.

Part 3 – Showing you understand

What to do

- 1 Choose any one of the items of clothing you have investigated.
 - ◆ Draw the item of clothing (see page 58 in the *Student's Book* for examples of drawings).
 - ◆ Draw the care label with any writing and symbols.
- 2 Illustrate, with notes, the answers to the following questions:
 - ◆ Where and when it would be most appropriate to wear it and for doing what?
 - ◆ How would you clean it?
 - ◆ How would you iron, press or steam it?
 - ◆ What on it might need mending or re-surfacing (e.g. de-bobbling)?
 - ◆ Would you hang or fold it?
 - ◆ How would you store it?
 - ◆ How would you transport it?

