






























Care Labelling and international care Symbols

Care codes are the internationally recognized symbols which are used for caring of garments in case of cleaning and ironing. These labels on which these codes are drawn or printed are called care labels.

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The care instructions are:

- Conditions of laundering.
- Drying instructions.
- Ironing instructions.

 Washing	 Do not wash	<p>Machine wash cycles</p>  Normal  Permanent press  Delicate / gentle  Hand wash
 Bleaching	 Bleaching	 Any bleach when needed  Only non-chlorine bleach when needed
 Drying	 Do not tumble dry  Do not dry (used with do not wash)	<p>Tumble dry cycles</p>  Normal  Permanent press  Delicate / gentle  Line dry / hang to dry  Dry flat
 Ironing	 Do not iron	<p>Iron-dry or steam</p>  200°C (390°F) High  150°C (300°F) Medium  110°C (230°F) Low  No steam (added to iron)
 Dry-clean	 Do not dry-clean	<p>Dry-clean - normal cycle</p>  Any solvent  Any solvent except trichloroethylene  Petroleum solvent only

There are five basic categories of symbols:

- Washing: a trapezoid-shaped tub with squiggly lines representing water.
- Bleaching: a triangle.
- Drying: a square.
- Ironing: an iron.
- Professional Textile Care: a circle.

Introduction

Care instructions are small solutions to big problems. Care labels provide guidelines to consumers about apparel care, and the best cleaning procedures to be used for a particular combination of fabric, thread decoration and construction techniques. Following the instructions on the care labels is an assurance that the appearance and fit of the garment will be maintained after repeated cleaning treatments.

From a manufacturer's point of view, damage to garments from incorrect cleaning methods can lead to complaints; costly customer returns and a bad image. Whereas accurate and clearly written care labels can prevent customer dissatisfaction. From a consumer's point of view, accurate and clearly written care instructions serve as a cleaning guide and influence purchase. Garments with ease of care are often preferred over garments with complicated or difficult to understand care procedures.

Many different care labelling systems have evolved over the world. Some have been established as a governmental regulation, while others are international standards. Not all of them however, are mandatory.



This Bulletin Post is a comprehensive guide to the different care labelling systems, their usage and the newly developed Fabric Performance Codes.

Lesser-Known Facts About Care Labels

- The country where the garment is sewn is the country of origin listed on the care label
- Care labels must be permanently attached so that they are easily accessible to the consumer at the point of purchase. Generally, it is placed on the side or bottom
- The manufacturer or importer who directs production is responsible for the accuracy of care instructions

- A product may be imported without a care label, but it must be attached before the product is sold

Care Labelling Systems

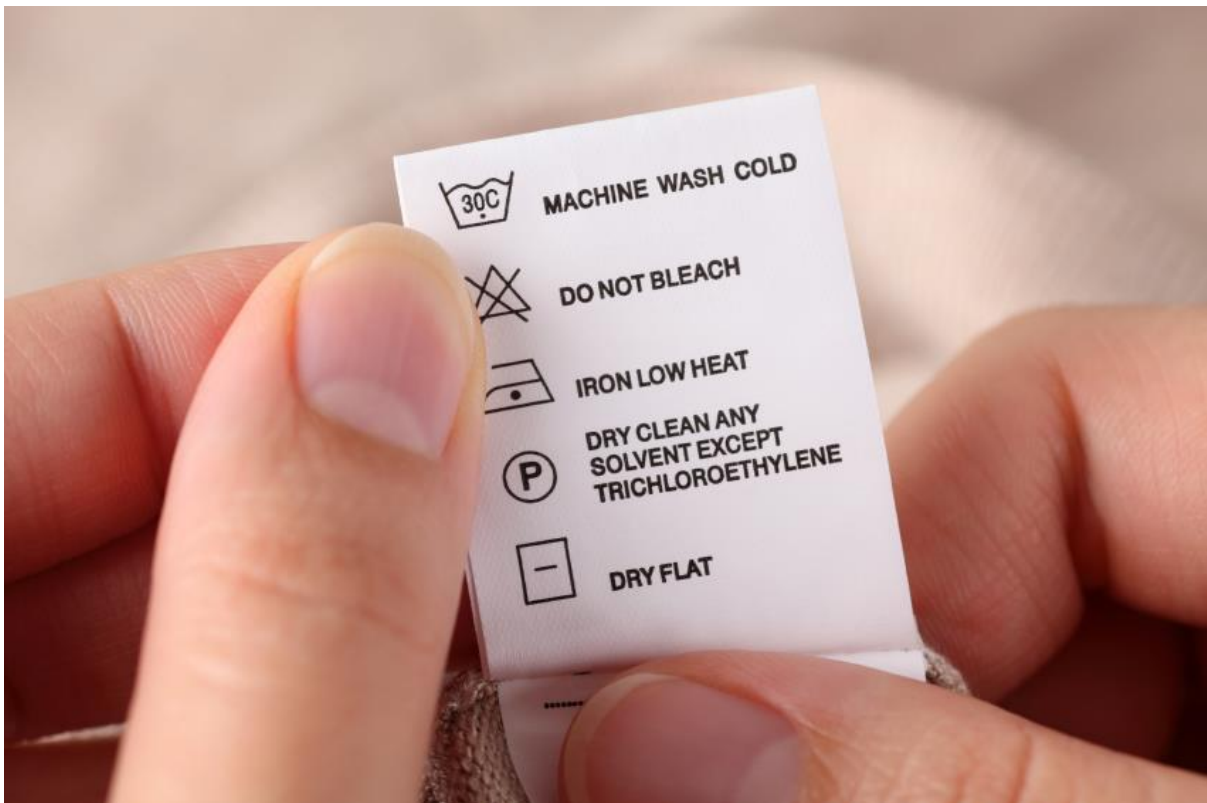
There are five care labelling systems which are generally used on care labels. These systems are:

- The International Care Labelling System
- The Japanese Care Labelling System
- The Canadian Care Labelling System
- The European Care Labelling System
- The American Care Labelling System

The International Care Labelling System

The International Association for Textile Care Labelling (GINETEX) is the world body which governs care labels since 1975.

Member nations of GINETEX are Belgium, France, Germany, England, Netherlands, Israel, Austria, Switzerland, and Spain.



Its objectives are to:

- Inform consumers on the correct care labelling of textiles through a system of uniform and simple care labelling symbols, independent of language
- Achieve and promote voluntary care labelling on an international basis through the uniform symbols of GINETEX, thus avoiding the use of different systems

The GINETEX care labelling system is based on the following principles:

- The care symbols provide information on the maximum permitted type of treatment
- The care symbols must always be used in full and in the prescribed sequence
- The care labelling must be clear, readily understandable, easy to use and not dependent on any particular language
- The care symbols must not leave room for possible misinterpretation by the consumer
- Uniform positioning of labels and harmonised use of the care symbols
- The uniform care labelling system using symbols must take account of consumer habits without using complex technical data
- The appliances used for textile care purposes must ensure the best possible implementation of the recommended care treatment
- Adaptations which are necessary to keep up with ongoing technical and economic developments must as far as possible be made without the use of new symbols and additions in the framework of the existing system

Five basic symbols are used in the international care labelling system in this order:



Note: The symbols for the International Care Labelling System are the same as those listed in the European Care Labelling System.

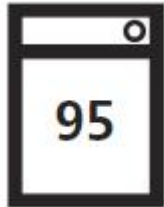
The Japanese Care Labelling System

The Japanese system, like other care labelling systems must have symbols placed in a specified order. Labels should be designed based on the following convention:

- Symbols should be arranged from left to right according to the following sequence: 1) Washing, 2) Bleaching, 3) Ironing, 4) Dry-Cleaning, 5) Wringing & 6) Drying
- For coloured products which are not usually bleached, the symbol for possibility of chlorine bleached may be omitted
- For products which are not usually ironed, the symbols for ironing may be omitted. (Except 'cannot be ironed')
- For products which can be washed with water, the symbols for dry-cleaning may be omitted. (Except 'cannot be dry-cleaned')
- The symbols should be either in black or dark blue whereas the prohibition symbols are in red and on a white background

Japanese Care Labelling - Washing (with water)

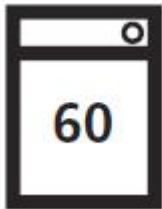
Washing (with water)



Machine washable in maximum water temperature of 95°C



Machine washable at slow water current or gentle hand wash in maximum water temperature of 40°C



Machine washable in maximum water temperature of 60°C



Machine washable at slow water current or gentle hand wash in maximum water temperature of 30°C



Machine washable in maximum water temperature of 40°C



Should be washed gently by hand (not machine washable)
Cannot be washed with water

Japanese Care Labelling - Bleaching

Bleaching



Chlorine-based bleaching allowed



Do not use chlorine-based bleach

Japanese Care Labelling - Ironing

Ironing



Should be ironed at a temperature between 180°C - 210°C



Cannot be ironed



Should be ironed at a temperature between 140°C - 160°C



May be ironed at 180°C - 210°C if a cloth is placed between iron and garment



Should be ironed at a temperature between 80°C - 120°C

Japanese Care Labelling - Dry Cleaning

Dry Cleaning



Can be dry cleaned
Use solvent of perchloroethylene or of petroleum based solvent



Cannot be dry cleaned



Can be dry cleaned
Use only a petroleum based solvent

Japanese Care Labelling - Wringing

Wringing



Wring gently by hand or for a short time by centrifugal hydroextractor



Cannot be wrung

Japanese Care Labelling - Drying

Drying



Hang dry



Lay flat to dry



Hang dry in shade



Lay flat to dry in shade

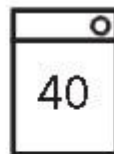
Note:



(i) The word '中' indicates that neutral detergent should be used.



(ii) The symbol '高' indicates that clothes ironed should be covered with another cloth.



(iii) The sentence 'ネット' indicates that a net should be used.

The Canadian Care Labelling System

Until July 1973 care labelling was not a legal requirement in Canada. After this date a new care labelling system was introduced. The new Canadian care symbol system used green (go ahead), amber (caution), and red (don't try) with five symbols which were wash tub, bleach triangle, square dryer, iron, and dry cleaning circle. In 2003 the Canadian system was updated to harmonise with the

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and (ISO) standards, and the colour code was discontinued.



The European Care Labelling System

Individual committees of the European Union are reviewing existing care label standards by collaborating with other international bodies so that they can create a unified system under the ISO scheme.

The symbols used in Europe are trademarked by GENETEX and a trademark fee needs to be paid to GENETEX, the trademark holder, if the garments are to be sold in a GENETEX country.

A correct care label for European countries is required to consist of at least four and sometimes five symbols in the following sequence: 1) Washing, 2) Bleaching, 3) Ironing, 4) Dry-Cleaning & 5) Drying.

European Care Labelling - Washing Process

Washing Process



Maximum temperature
95°C
Mechanical action
normal



Maximum temperature
40°C
Mechanical action
normal

European Care Labelling - Washing Process

Washing Process

	Rinsing normal Spinning normal		Rinsing normal Spinning normal
	Maximum temperature 95°C Mechanical action reduced Rinsing at gradually decreasing temperature (cool down) Spinning reduced		Maximum temperature 40°C Mechanical action reduced Rinsing at gradually decreasing temperature (cool down) Spinning reduced
	Maximum temperature 70°C Mechanical action normal Rinsing normal Spinning normal		Maximum temperature 40°C Mechanical action much reduced Rinsing normal Spinning normal Do not wring by hand
	Maximum temperature 60°C Mechanical action normal Rinsing normal Spinning normal		Maximum temperature 30°C Mechanical action much reduced Rinsing normal Spinning reduced
	Maximum temperature 60°C Mechanical action reduced Rinsing at gradually decreasing temperature (cool down) Spinning reduced		Hand wash only Do not machine wash Maximum temperature 40°C Handle with care

European Care Labelling - Washing Process

Washing Process



Maximum temperature
50°C
Mechanical action
reduced
Rinsing at gradually
decreasing temperature
(cool down)
Spinning reduced



Do not wash
Be cautious when
treating in wet stage

European Care Labelling - Bleaching Process

Bleaching Process



Chlorine-based bleaching
allowed.
Only cold and dilute solution.



Do not use chlorine-
based bleach

European Care Labelling - Ironing Process

Ironing Process



Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 200°C



Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 110°C
Steam-ironing may be risky



Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 150°C



Do not iron
Steaming and steam treatments are not allowed

European Care Labelling - Dry Cleaning Process

Dry Cleaning Process



Dry-cleaning in all solvents normally used for dry-cleaning - this includes all solvents listed for the symbol P, plus trichloroethylene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane



Dry-cleaning in trifluoro trichloroethane, white spirit (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C, flash point 38°C to 60°C)
Normal cleansing procedures without restrictions.



Dry-cleaning in tetrachloroethylene, monofluorotrichloro methane and all solvents listed for the symbol F
Normal cleansing procedures without restrictions



Dry-cleaning in the solvents listed in the previous paragraph. Strict limitations on the addition of water and / or mechanical action and / or temperature during cleaning and / or drying
No self-service cleaning allowed



Dry-cleaning in the solvents listed in the previous paragraph. Strict limitations on the addition of water and / or mechanical action and / or temperature during cleaning and / or drying
No self-service cleaning allowed



Do not dry-clean
No stain removal with solvents

European Care Labelling - Drying Process

Drying Process



Tumble dry possible
Normal drying cycle



Do not tumble dry



Tumble dry possible
Drying at lower temperature setting

The American Care Labelling System

According to the Federal Trade Commission's Care Label rule, care labels may be composed of either words or symbols. Irrespective of whether the content is words, symbols, or both, care instructions appear in the following order:

1. Machine wash / hand wash / dry-clean
2. Washing temperature (hot / warm / cold)
3. Washing machine programme (delicate / permanent press / normal cycle)
4. Bleaching instruction (do not bleach / non-chlorine bleach / chlorine bleach)
5. Drying method (tumble dry / line dry / flat dry / drip dry)
6. Ironing (do not iron / cool iron / warm iron / hot iron)
7. Warnings

In addition to the care label instructions, manufacturers and importers must provide labels that:

- Are permanently attached so that they can be easily seen at the point of sale. If the product is packaged, displayed or folded so that the customers cannot find the label, care information must also appear on the side of the package or on a hang tag
- Remain fastened and legible during the useful life of the product
- Mention the regular care needed for the ordinary use of the product
- Warn the customer about additional factors which may harm the garment