Challis

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FABRIC FACTS

Challis is one of the softest fabrics made. Its name is derived from the Anglo-Indian word shalee which means soft. It is a lightweight fabric and, quite often, printed with a delicate floral pattern. It can also be found in solid colors or with bold prints. Challis may be made from spun rayon, wool, acrylics, blends and combinations of any yarns. Challis is used for dresses, blouses, kimonos, robes, shawls, scarves, spreads and comforters.

FABRIC PROBLEMS

The serviceability of challis is largely determined by the fiber content, dye and print. Challis made of wool and blends of wool is susceptible to shrinkage and felting from heat, moisture and mechanical action. Challis made of acrylic or blends of heat sensitive fibers is susceptible to distortion from heat and mechanical action. Both felting and fusing give the fabric a harshness of feel which is uncharacteristic of the fabric. Pilling may occur because challis is woven from short staple fibers. Routine finishing may also result in harshness of feel. Some prints may bleed in the presence of moisture or in routine spotting. Bright and vivid colors are especially susceptible to color change. When pigments are used for printing, dye crocking may occur from the mechanical action in normal wear, in drycleaning or in routine spotting procedures. Color loss will occur if the adhesive binder, which holds the pigment print to fabric, is affected by drycleaning solvent or dryside spotting.

IDENTIFICATION

Challis can be identified by the softness of the fabric. It is never heavy. If it cannot be identified positively, process the garment along with other soft fabrics. If the fabric is challis, check the garment for pilling, matting and felting. Also look for color damage in the underarm, collar and sleeve areas where perspiration and mechanical action may have affected the dye.

DRYCLEANING
Challis should be drycleaned for only 3 to 5 minutes in a dry load to prevent felting, matting or dye loss on pigment prints. Do not run in a load in which garments that have been prespotted with moisture have been entered. Do not enter challis fabric in a load just after a moisture batch run. Instead, run a load of hard fabrics right after the moisture load and then a load with challis. Add charge soap to the load in which challis is to be run to lower the solvent relative humidity. Challis will become harsh if the soap or soap charge is insufficient to maintain the characteristic hand of the fabric. Do not add excessive injection soap, which usually has a high moisture content. Do not add excessive injection soap, which usually has a high moisture content.

SPOTTING

If challis has surface pigment print, before using dryside chemicals, test them on an unexposed seam. Surface prints can be identified by examining the reverse side of the fabric. The color and design of surface prints will not show on the reverse side. Test acids and alkalis on bright or vivid colors to avoid color changes. Test woolens before using protein formula or ammonia. When flushing with the steam gun, use a cheesecloth under challis. If the cheesecloth picks up color, wetside spotting will be hazardous.

WETCLEANING

Wetclean only if garment label states that the garment can be washed. Otherwise, do not wetclean unless it is the only alternative and then only with the customer's

written permission. If after wetcleaning the fabric feels harsh, dryclean the garment with sufficient soap charge.

FINISHING

Steam lightly. Never use head pressure. The soft surface fibers of the fabric will be matted, resulting in a harsh feel. Use a velvet or other soft brush to remove wrinkles and raise the surface fibers of the fabric.

SUMMARY

The degree of serviceability of challis is determined by the fiber or blends used and by the dye or print application. The soft feel of the fabric may be adversely affected by heat, moisture, mechanical action or head pressure in finishing. Spotting procedures cannot be routine or dye loss and color bleeding will result. Routine finishing may result in a harsh surface.