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INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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**BLACK HALO**

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The black portion of this dress could not withstand drycleaning without dye bleeding into the white bodice.

October 22, 2009

**The garment:** A black skirt & white bodice dress with a green ribbon sash around the waist. The fabric is a blend of polyester, rayon and spandex. The care label states: "dry clean" with no International code symbols.

**The problem:** During drycleaning in perchlorethylene (perc), the black skirt fabric dye bleeds, resulting in fairly even transfer of color onto the white top section, causing graying.

**Who's responsible?** The manufacturer since the black fabric was not able to withstand the recommended care instructions without

the recommended care instructions without severe dye disturbance.

**What to do:** This dress should be returned to the retailer or manufacturer.



After drycleaning, the graying of the white bodice fabric is readily seen in this close up view.

Since the damage is related to solvent power, a process using a lower power solvent (such as petroleum, hydrocarbon, or GreenEarth) may have been successful. In some cases careful wet cleaning is possible. However, according to the United States care labeling regulation, this dress could be drycleaned safely in any solvent, including perc. This interpretation may differ in other countries.

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Featuring a garment does not imply that a manufacturer is knowingly or continually producing defective goods. While this particular item was deemed unable to withstand the recommended care process, other comparable garments may or may not hold up to the care instructions.

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