

heads UP

for this garment

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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This dress had plastic trim at the neckband area that dissolved during acceptable drycleaning procedures.

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The garment: A pink/green/multi-color floral design silk dress with plastic bead trim around the neck area. The care label reads, "Dry Clean". The corresponding International Cleanability Symbol indicates normal drycleaning in any solvent.

The problem: After drycleaning in perchlorethylene solvent the plastic trim on the neck trim ribbon partially dissolved resulting in an objectionable appearance to the trim, as well as self-staining of the nearby dress fabric. The plastic used to make this decorative design dissolves during drycleaning.

Who's responsible? The manufacturer, since all components on a garment must be able to withstand the recommended professional cleaning process, as labeled.

What to do: This dress should be returned to the place of purchase or manufacturer.



This close up view of the front neck reveals that the plastic beads dissolved during cleaning and stained nearby dress fabric.

Since the trim damage is related to the power of the drycleaning solution, a process using a lower power solution (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 cleaned safely in any drycleaning medium, including perc. This interpretation may differ in other countries.

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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