

heads UP for this garment

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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This ladies black jacket could not withstand drycleaning without severe change of appearance and texture.

May 27, 2010

The garment: A ladies black polyester jacket with a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) inner film coating. The care label states: "dry clean only" with no International code symbols.

The problem: During drycleaning in perchlorethylene (perc), the PVC softening agent dissolved and the coat lost its softness. The jacket now appears stiff, puckered and crinkly.

Who's responsible? The manufacturer since the coat was not able to withstand the recommended care instructions without severe texture change.

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



After drycleaning, the softening chemical is lost and the jacket becomes stiff and crinkled.

Since the 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 coat 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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