

TABS

INTERNATIONAL FABRICARE INSTITUTE BULLETIN

COMFORTERS THAT FADE

No. 326

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM ?

After professional cleaning, some household items, such as comforters and bedspreads, lose some depth of color and loss of sheen.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

The overall color or surface design is dull and/or drastically faded out. In some cases, the comforter no longer matches accessories to the set, such as pillow shams or the bed skirt.

WHAT CAUSED IT?

Adverse loss of color occurs when the dye, pigment, or glazed finish is damaged when cleaned following the recommended or accepted professional cleaning process for household items. Some dye bleeding can occur during dry cleaning, while in other cases wet cleaning damages the dye or finish. In still other instances, the appearance is affected by both methods of professional cleaning, and there is no safe process for care. Therefore, color loss can become objectionable from either dry cleaning or wet cleaning, depending on the durability of the dye or design to the proper method of care.

CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

Only the manufacturer can prevent bedspreads and comforters from fading during cleaning by using dyes and finishes that will not be damaged by the recommended method and providing the customer with a permanently affixed care label. If there is no instruction label, the professional cleaner can only follow his past experience and knowledge of fibers, fabrics, and dyes to determine the best and safest method of cleaning. This certainly is not the desired or foolproof damage prevention method.



The comforter to this bed set faded in cleaning. The sham resting on top of the comforter shows the original colors.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

There are many dyes and pigments available for coloring fabrics that are completely colorfast to dry cleaning or washing or both. If one of these coloring processes is used in manufacture and then a correct care label is attached, then no dye damage will occur when the suggested care procedure is undertaken. When an objectionable change of appearance occurs during the manufacturer's suggested care process or the normally accepted professional cleaning method on non-labeled pieces, then the manufacturer should be held responsible. This dye failure could be due to poor quality controls or a simple dye mishap on the fabric bolt, as well as just a case of mislabeling.

IS THERE A REMEDY?

There is no method of restoring color or finish on such household items that fade in cleaning. □