

TABS

INTERNATIONAL FABRICARE INSTITUTE BULLETIN

DISTORTION OF BATTING MATERIALS

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Sometimes, distortion or flatness occurs on fiberfill insulating materials used in both wearable garments and household items.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

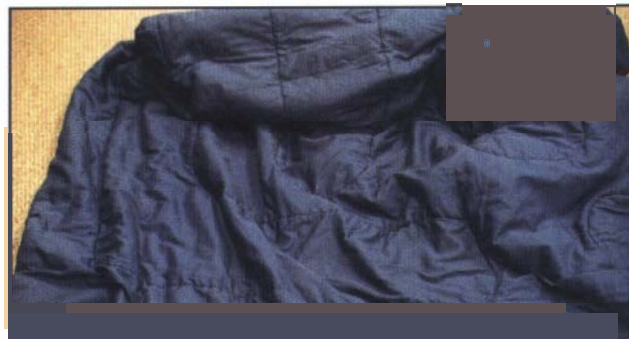
It can appear as flatness or loss of loft. Many times, it appears as shifted, lumpy, and distorted inner lining materials. This lack of original uniformity is objectionable.

WHAT CAUSED IT?

Most fiberfill insulation consists of polyester fibers that are carded to form web sheets. The sheets are then layered to obtain the desired thickness and loft. These web sheets are held together by acrylic resins, other binding agents, or thermobinders. Sometimes, due to lack of proper quilting in the manufacturing process or a breakdown of the binders during cleaning, the fiberfill loses its loft and shape. Age and conditions of use can also be factors in distortion of these filler materials.

CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

The cleaner cannot prevent this damage. Fiber density and weight will dictate the insulating qualities and original loft of the batting. The durability of such items



directly depends on the stability and quality of the overall construction, as well as the methods and materials used as the fiberfill. Also, there should be sufficient quilt stitching to form small pockets; thus preventing extensive shifting of the batting during use and care.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Only the methods and materials of construction will determine the durability and susceptibility of these items to flattening, matting, shifting, or other distortions. The manufacturer must be held responsible when these items fail. The normal agitation of any acceptable care process will only aggravate this defective condition.

IS THERE A REMEDY?

Unfortunately, once these inner-liner batting materials become distorted, there is no remedy. □