

TABS

INTERNATIONAL FABRICARE INSTITUTE BULLETIN

SHRINKAGE OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

No. 268

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Some natural relaxation shrinkage can show up after cleaning of household items, such as comforters, bedspreads, blankets, and slipcovers.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

There is usually a fullness of the backing or shell fabric, causing a puckered appearance. Also, any piping borders, quilting stitches, and seams may be rippled or distorted. The zippers needed for many slipcovers will be wavy.

WHAT CAUSED IT?

Although many factors can contribute to this type of shrinkage, the major cause is the original fabric not being properly preshrunk or stabilized before the article was constructed. When this occurs, the latent strains of relaxation will appear during the agitation of any acceptable care procedure.

CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

Yes, proper preshrinking and better quality control during all phases of manufacture can eliminate excessive relaxation shrinkage during consumer use and later care.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Some slight shrinkage (approximately 2-4 percent) must be expected on all household items. On properly cleaned items that shrink so excessively that they cannot be used, the manufacturer should be held responsible.

IS THERE A REMEDY?

In some cases only, patient steam finishing while stretching the fabric can restore household items to an acceptable dimension. This procedure, however, is not always effective.



Fullness to the backing fabric indicates shrinkage has occurred in the shell/face fabric of this bedspread.