

## Care of Furnishings Guide: Mosaic

### Why is Aftercare so important?

Like most things, if your Healthcare fabric / product is to look good and last for years it needs looking after. All Mosaic healthcare fabrics, whether cotton, polyester or other composition are specially designed to be washable to NHS thermal disinfection temperatures of 71°C.  The high wash temperatures and aggressive chemistry used to disinfect NHS garments could have a detrimental effect on the appearance and durability of textile materials unless properly cared for. Mosaic is an approved supplier on the NHS contract – contract number B/3/N/20571 and has supplied fabrics and garments into the NHS for use at disinfectant temperatures for many years.

Following the advice in this care guide however will help your product to retain its appearance for much longer and its product life cycle will be much extended.

### Is there a recommended Washing Program?

Below is a typical laundry process route suitable for washing cotton or Polyester within NHS guidelines. This is a guide only and it is recognized that each laundry and situation is different and so individual wash programs may vary.

It is recommended however that each laundry should run a trial program wash before the exact process parameters are finalised.

- **WASH ONE** 6 Minutes run in 11 C Cold Water
- **WASH TWO** 3 Minutes (\*) run in water @ 72 C Plus Detergent & Peroxide Bleach
- **INTERSPIN** 1 Minute
- **RINSE ONE** 2 Minutes run in 14 C Cold Water
- **INTERSPIN** 1 Minute
- **RINSE TWO** 2 minutes run in 14 C Cold Water
- **INTERSPIN** 1 Minute
- **HIGH SPEED EXTRACTION** 7 Minutes
- **DRYING TIME** 10 Minutes with a maximum input of 150 C and output temperature of 100 C and single rotation
- **IRONER** at 22 m/min

(\*) The total time will be longer than 3 Minutes, this being the time once 72° C is achieved; typically 8 minutes total.

### Is there a different Program recommended for Cotton than for Polyester?

Polyester will dry more easily than Cotton and so drying times can be reduced for Polyester (Protech) fabrics if required.

**Aside from selecting the correct washing program what other advice will help me care for my fabric / product?**

**To Minimise Shrinkage**

- DO where temperature in washing or drying exceed 60°C – reduce temperatures gradually to avoid shock shrinkage in subsequent processes.
- DO wherever possible consider the direction the curtain feeds into a rotary ironer. In a four roll ironer the roll to roll stretch on a fabric is typically 5mm for every turn of the roll. This stretch will tend to make the curtain longer in the direction of travel through the ironer but shorter in the traverse direction. If the curtain is being fed in edge first the greater shrinkage is produced in the vertical length. Wherever possible it is recommended to feed a curtain in with its header or bottom edge first into the ironer – this will increase the length but shorten the width which is less critical.
- DO wherever possible, introduce an intermediate tumble dry between wash and rotary iron. This will help reduce moisture levels thus avoiding thermal shock shrinkage as a result of evaporating moisture too rapidly. 5-10% of dry weight is a good guideline for residual moisture.
- DO present fabric to the ironer with sufficient residual moisture to avoid over drying as well as overheating and thermal shock shrinkage (see above).
- The speed and temperature of the ironer should be regulated to allow the fabric to emerge with approximately between 1 to 2% of moisture remaining.
- Alternative methods for finishing which may be considered include:
  - Tumble dry and fold.
  - Steam tunnel finish.
  - Steam press finish.

These may however not produce the quality of finish desired but with printed fabrics the print life will be extended.

- Moisture extraction should be in accordance with the type of fabric being processed; however, when processing synthetic fibres, this should not be so severe that the final moisture content is below 45% of the dry weight of the fabric.
- Final Moisture content can be regulated by a reduction in the speed of rotation and or the length of time the extract process.
- The following adjustments can be made that will reduce the temperature that the fabric attains during the drying or ironing process and so is a very important consideration for cotton fabrics to avoid shock shrinkage distortion:
  - Increase the speed of the ironer.
  - Reduce the bed temperature of the ironer by a steam reducing valve or similar.
  - Increase the moisture retention of the fabric immediately prior to ironing.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Many modern rotary ironing machines are capable of reaching highly elevated temperatures. A 10 bar machine will be above 184°C in temperature and it is important to note that this is higher than the softening temperature of many polyesters fibres. To avoid problems with polyester it should be noted that if the temperature is high enough to soften the polyester then any distortion that is then imparted into the fabric will be permanently set into the fabric. It is quite possible that after 10 washes the fabric could be stretched 10% in width and shrunk 10% in length.

## To preserve the fabric appearance

- DO NOT - use OBA - optical brightening agents - these products can cause shade changes and give a faded appearance on coloured fabrics.
- DO NOT load machines in excess of 65% loading factor to avoid premature wear. This will avoid sharp paper like creases – which will have an abrading effect and also rub on the machine drum to damage surface fibres – being permanently pressed into the fabric.
- DO for hydro-extraction follow Tunnel Wash – select the lowest tamping action. This will avoid excessive pressure creasing, fibre damage and possible print marbling resulting from the membrane press stage.
- DO where temperatures in washing or drying exceed 60°C, reduce temperatures gradually to avoid thermal shock which will cause creasing that is difficult to remove and increase shrinkage.
- DO NOT use bleaches as these may have an adverse effect on the colours.
- DO separate fabrics into fibres – avoiding mixing natural and synthetic fibres – in particular for printed items prior to washing to minimise abrasive effect.
- DO when rotary ironing cotton fabrics avoid temperatures in excess of 120°C. Alternatives to rotary ironing are Tumble Dry and Fold, Steam Tunnel or Press Finish. These are kinder to the fabric but may not give the desired finish.
- When processing 100% transfer Printed Polyester fabric it is essential, if print loss is to be kept to a minimum that the fabric is never allowed to reach 120°C. Thus 100% Transfer Printed Polyester fabrics should not be ironed using the same conditional applicable for 100% cotton. The following adjustments can be made which will reduce the temperature that the fabric attains during the drying or ironing process:
  - Increase the speed of the ironer.
  - Reduce the bed temperature of the ironer by a steam reducing valve or similar.
  - Increase the moisture retention of the fabric immediately prior to ironing.
- DO insure fabric is presented flat to the ironer to ensure even drying and avoid rope type creases.
- DO before laundering remove curtain hooks and un-draw heading tapes. If this is not done then particularly if curtains are rotary ironed, the fabrics will twist and uneven drying and creasing will result.
- DO – particularly for print fabrics – wash inside out to reduce print abrasion and wear.

## To preserve the FR performance

DO NOT use Sodium Hypochlorite bleach with any cellulosic based fabric that has been chemically treated to impart a flame retardant finish. Stain removal can be effected using hydrogen peroxide or Sodium Perborate in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

- DO NOT use pure soap.
- DO ensure that lint traps are clean before starting the wash & dry cycle – loose fibres can cause pilling and in extreme cases affect to FR.
- DO NOT use fabric conditioners, starches or other additives as these can impair the FR properties. If in doubt seek manufacturer's guidance.
- DO wash fabrics on a regular basis – at least annually – to avoid build up of dust and other flammables.

- DO trial any new chemicals carefully prior to bulk introduction to the laundering process in order to avoid any possible adverse effect to the appearance or FR properties of the fabric.

## General Comments

- DO for made up products (non NHS) please refer to the **Skopos** care label attached to the product. See section Made up Products.
- DO when using disinfectant spray or other cleaning or stain removal product, for example in hospitals, test the disinfectant product on a small inconspicuous area of the fabric/product first to eliminate the possibility of any adverse reaction such as colour change/loss.
- DO NOT use an abrasive pad, abrasive cloth or abrasive cleaning agent when sponge cleaning fabrics / treating stains as these items may cause significant damage to the fabric surface. Avoid any strong rubbing action in general when caring for fabrics.
- DO avoid any strong rubbing action in general when caring for fabrics.
- DO vacuum (low suction) fixed upholstery covers regularly to remove accumulated dirt and prevent abrasive damage and colour fading.

## Stain Removal

For best results always act quickly to remove stains. Dab the chosen cleaning agent onto the stained area, working in toward the centre of the stain, and if possible working from the back of the fabric. Place a clean cloth or absorbent tissue behind the stain to soak up the residue.

As above never use an abrasive pad, abrasive cloth or abrasive cleaning agent, avoid a strong rubbing action and always test the cleaning or stain removal agent in a small, inconspicuous area of the product before general use.

For more detailed information about stain removal, a separate stain removal guide is available upon request. Please contact Skopos customer service information desk to request a copy.

## Are there any instructions specific to my 'Made up' Product?

**Important:** For made up product, please refer to the **care label attached to the product** as this is specific to the particular combination of materials that make up your product. Also, please consider the below, if you have purchased any of the following items from Skopos:

### Curtains

Before laundering always remove all curtain hooks and un-draw the heading tapes. Washing inside out will assist to reduce wear, maintain the original colour and ultimately increase the serviceable life of the product.

### Duvets and Counterpanes

As above, wherever possible do wash inside out to reduce wear and preserve the original for longer.

### Detachable covers for Upholstery

These can be dry-cleaned. Also, easy-care washing at 40 C is possible if recommended by the manufacturer.

Reference should also be made to the document “FLI/99/02” from NHS Supplies (Textile dept.) – tel. 01224 586700, “Curtain fabric / Duvets / Counterpane – Laundering Instructions.”

*This information is given as a guide and the laundry concerned should always make its own trials to assess the precise requirements for their local conditions and equipment. The information above is offered as true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. Skopos undertake no guarantee of results and assume no obligations or liability.*

## Care Instructions

	40°C wash with mild action. No bleach. Can be tumble-dried at low temperature. Warm iron. Can be dry-cleaned.
	Dry clean-only. Cool iron.
	40°C wash with mild action. No bleach. Can be tumble-dried at low temperature. Cool iron. Can be dry-cleaned.
	Dry clean-only. Do not iron.
	30°C wash with mild action. No bleach. Can be tumble-dried at low temperature. Cool iron. Can be dry-cleaned.
	Sponge clean only. Do not iron.
	Can be washed at NHS disinfection temperatures or 40°C wash with mild action, no bleach. Can be tumble-dried at low temperature. Warm Iron. Can be dry- cleaned

## Guide to the Care Symbols

Symbol	Description	Symbol	Description
	30°C wash, mild process		Warm Iron, max 150°C
	40°C wash, mild process		Do not Iron
	71°C wash, mild process		Cool temperature tumble dry
	Do not wash		Do not Tumble dry
	Do not Bleach		Dry clean, perchlorethylene and other solvents with symbol F
	Cool Iron, max 110°C		Do not dry clean