

















Dating Collections Using Standardised Wash Codes On Garment Labelling

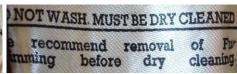
Wash code labels in garments are primarily used to guide us to the appropriate cleaning methods. Symbol based wash codes have evolved since 1966 and because they are standardised, these codes can be used to help date our textile from this period onwards. Before this time there was little or no instruction provided.

History of Care Labelling

With the introduction of a variety of new modern fibres that did not respond well to traditional cleaning methods, the need arose for a standardisation of the advice and labelling based on a greater knowledge of laundry processes and practises. In the 1950's, a text based system was used by a number of organisations, ad-hoc and none of which were standardised.







Eventually a standardised, symbol based system was created by the Home Laundering Consultative Council and the British Standards Institute. Starting as a national system it evolved into an international Textile Care Labelling Scheme (TCLS). The evolution that followed pushed the emphasis from boil washing cottons to remove germs, to the low temperature washing of synthetic fibres to freshen and reshape garments. The new requirements of the modern fibres revolutionised the laundry process as well as the machines and detergents associated with the process. The need for a TCLS led to the establishment of a British aftercare

The need for a TCLS led to the establishment of a British aftercare Organisation: the Home Laundering Consultative Council. To achieve the standard, the council collaborated with national and international standards and aftercare organisations, as well as the textile and laundry industries.

Fact Sheet

The reverse shows a table of symbols used on textiles at different periods in time starting in1966 and changing in 1976, 1980, 1982 and 1994. British and International standards evolved for several reasons with symbols being updated and added. The fact sheet was created with the aim to assist those caring for Textile Collections as another tool to date objects in their care. It is a result of a Master's dissertation at Southampton University entitled "Standards of Cleanliness: Caring for synthetic fabrics in Britain since the 1950".

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Organisation	HLCC 1966 ¹	*HLCC 1976/7 ²	BS27471980 ³	HLCC 1982 ⁴	BS2747: 1986 ⁵	BS EN 23758: 1994 ⁶
WASHING	MACHINE Whe the ((BPC) to bell minimum or beg Solin or writing	1 95	1950	1 95	95	95
	MACHINE HAND WASH HE (60°C) Head-box (60°C) resimilarity Spin or weing	\ <u>2</u>	608	2	60	60
	MACHINE HAND WASH mor (shi'c) morbis wash fundas wash fundas or officer fundas wash	3	3,60%	3		60
	Machine Machine Mand-Ref (RFC) Reddon Well Cold in Next Short spile or driv-dry	\ 4 /	50°	4	20	50
	MACHINE HAND WACH When (GPC) Insolve wash Spin or wing	5	5,40°	5	40	40
	MACRITICE MAND WASH Ween 197'C) Relatives wash Cool rises, Dool see: Do not wisto.	6	6	6	100	40
	MACHINE MAND WASH Were (40°C) Water (40°C) colorate with 35 to 44 to 35 Spin 30 not hard wring.	\ 7	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	\ 7	40	40
	MACHINE HAND WASH When (API API API API API API API API API API	8	8 30	8		30
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SPECIAL FINISHES		<u> </u>	\triangle	<u>€</u>	Δı	
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EXAMPLE	MACHINE HAND WATHER HAND WASH HAND WASH HAND WASH LOOK GER LOOK SAW COLUMN LOO			Section 1997		(a) (b) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c

¹ J. K, Mills, Washing Wisdom: A Guide to Modern Home Laundry, 3rd edn (Forbes Publications, London, 1976), p 72.

² The Home Laundering Consultative Council 1976/77, (Home Laundering Consultative Council, London, 1976).

³ BS 2747: 1980 Textile Care Labelling Code, (British Standards Institution, London, 1980).

International Textile Care Labelling Code: What it Means to You, (Home Laundering Consultative Council, London, 1982).
 BS 2747: 1986 Code of Practise for Textile Care Labelling, (British Standards Institution, London, 1986).
 BS EN 23758: 1994 & ISO 3758: 1991 Textile Care Labelling Code Using Symbols, (British Standards Institution, London, 1994).