



# **TEXTILE LABELS PROTECT AND INFORM CONSUMERS**

“Some consumers choose to remove the manufacturer's care labels that are attached to clothes and household textiles. These care labels are required by law to be attached to these textiles, with the intent of giving the consumer and the dry cleaner guidance in proper care for the item. The care label law states that consumers and dry cleaners are responsible for following the instructions on the care label. If damage to the garment results from using care procedures not recommended on the care label, the consumer or dry cleaner is responsible for that damage. If damage results in spite of following the care procedures recommended on the label, the manufacturer is responsible for the damage and the consumer should return the item to the retail store where it was purchased.”

*The above information was taken from the University of Missouri Extension report GH824, Reviewed June 2009*

As a valued client of Cove Cleaners we urge you to retain any care labels that you remove from textiles. The complexity of many of today's most fashionable garments and household textiles can make the proper care of these items challenging. If a care label reads **“Do not wash, Do not dry clean”** the garment may not be cleaned by any method. A garment labeled **“Dry clean except for trim”** cannot be cleaned if the trim is not removable. Sometimes the consumer will compare a garment labeled **“Dry clean only”** with a similar garment labeled **“Machine washable”** and wonder why it is necessary to dry clean one if not the other. There are two common reasons that may be the basis for the recommendations:

The first is the dye. Some garments are dyed with water-soluble dyes; others with solution-soluble dyes. If the wrong cleaning process is used, the dye may run and possibly ruin the garment.

The second is the fabric. Among the many new fabrics on the market today are washable silk, a washable wool, and a washable rayon. However, not all silks, wools and rayon's are washable. In addition, some fabrics cannot tolerate the process used in dry cleaning. Failure to follow the recommended care procedure may result in a ruined garment.

Due to these and many other complexities involved in the proper care and cleaning of today's garments and household textiles, we urge you to retain accurate records of all care label instructions that you choose to remove. Some of our clients have made photo copies of the labels and then written the name or other identifying comments of each garment on the photo copy. They then pass this information on to us at Cove Cleaners, which then allows us to expertly clean and press your items.

*Thank you for your cooperation Cove Cleaners*