

What I Need to Know

Care and Maintenance of Proban-Treated Garments

- Proban treatment is a flame-*retardant* treatment, not a flame-*proofing* treatment. In the Proban process, the Proban chemical penetrates into the cotton fibres where it is polymerized by curing with ammonia gas. Because of its greatly increased molecular size, the polymer is trapped within the cotton fibres.
- Although the Proban-treated garments will still burn, the burning process is retarded by a chemical reaction that the Proban treatment activates. When the flame source is removed, the fabric will self-extinguish, unlike untreated cotton which continues to burn, and poly/cotton which burns and melts at a very rapid rate. It is resistant to removal by repeated laundering and can be removed only when the cotton fibres themselves are worn away.
- Tests have shown that the Proban content of the fabric decreases in the first couple of launderings as the chemical is removed. Thereafter the Proban level remains very stable with a continuing slight decrease caused by wear to the fabric.
- Garments subjected to over 100 domestic launderings have passed the relevant flammability tests. However, garments can fail flammability tests after only five washes if they have been laundered incorrectly. It is, therefore, very important for you to look after your Proban-tested garment properly.
- There are two definite **must nots**:
 - You **must not** wash Proban-treated garments in traditional soap based powders such as Lux, Velvet and Advance. These soap powders can form flammable deposits which may adversely affect the flame-retardant performance of the fabric.
 - You **must not** use Hydrochlorite-based household bleaches such as Domestos, White King (and all supermarket blends) as they can destroy the flame retardant capacity of the fabric.

How I do it

- You can wash Proban-treated garments in conventional washing machines. It is recommended that coloureds and whites be washed in cold or warm water at temperatures no higher than 60 degrees Celsius. Use the wash program for non-colour fast cotton articles.
- You **may use** the following washing powders:
 - Castle
 - FAB
 - Cold Power
 - OMO
 - Drive
 - Radiant
 - Dynamo
 - Spree
 - Surf
- A short re-soak (up to 2 hours at room temperature) may be useful for articles which are heavily stained or soiled. It is suggested that garments be regularly washed to prevent a build-up of soiling. Garments can be tumble dried (preferably at a warm setting).
- Take care not to over-dry the garments. This can occur if you leave them in the dryer when they are dry. Over-drying will not affect the flame-retardant properties of the garment, but, as the base fabric is cotton, excessive shrinkage might occur.
- Should you have any further questions as to how your garments should be cared for, simply contact the supplier, Stewart & Heaton Clothing Co Pty Ltd, on: (08) 9277 5555.