

Care and Maintenance Instructions for Laundering Incontinence Products

We hope these tips, drawn on our years of experience in evaluating our barrier in use, help you maximise the utility of your launderable incontinence products.

There are no warranties expressed or implied. Information is furnished upon the condition that the people receiving it shall conduct their own tests to determine the suitability of our material with their particular chemicals or process involved.

Launderable barrier fabrics have been designed to withstand over 200 commercial washer/dryer cycles

In order to achieve long life, however, three cardinal rules must be adhered to when laundering your incontinence products.

Rule #1

Use only chemicals recommended for use with flexible vinyl barriers and use those chemicals in the dilution prescribed by the manufacturer of the chemical. Common symptoms of chemical abuse of a vinyl barrier are:

Symptom A:

Shrinkage, polyester fibre damage and delamination of the textile from the vinyl.

Likely cause: This is due to improperly diluted chemicals causing excessive alkalinity.

Recommend: check dilution of detergent and/or sour in wash.

Symptom B:

Embrittlement and cracking of the vinyl accompanied by possible shrinkage.

Likely cause: Chlorine bleach from wash has been retained in the product through improper or incomplete rinsing. Dryer heat then causes vinyl stiffening and cracking.

Recommend: thorough rinsing and adding "anti-chlor" to rinse.

Symptom C:

Embrittlement and delamination of vinyl/textile in localised areas.

Likely cause: This is due to use of spot solvent cleaners in attempt to treat stains

Recommend: do not use solvents with vinyl barriers under any circumstances.

Rule # 2

Dryer heat should not exceed 82°C (180°F). Check dryer heat setting frequently and check dryer drums for “hot spots”. Hot spots often exceed 140°C (284°F). Vinyl will soften at 180°F and liquefy and flow at 284°F. A barrier subjected to heat in this range, depending on other factors such as duration and dryer load, could fail.

Symptom:

Failure may appear as single tiny pinholes, multiple pinholes in a linear group or larger holes.

Likely Cause: The most common scenario of failure occurs at a crease or fold in the barrier, which acts as a leading edge of contact in tumbling of the barrier in the dryer. Exposed vinyl at the interstices (openings between yarns in the backing textile) comes in contact with a too hot portion of the dryer drum, the vinyl momentarily flows, adheres to the drum and pulls away or “picks off” from the barrier leaving a hole the size of the interstice of the textile.

Recommend: monitor your drying cycle to prevent too high heat settings and inspect dryers for hot spots.

Note: this high heat pick off of vinyl is by far and away the most common incidence of barriers failure we see returned for evaluation.

Rule # 3

Be certain product is allowed to run through cool down cycle in the dryer. Without proper cool down heated barrier in a load of hot dried product will fuse to itself at creased fold-overs in the barrier. The weight of the load and the retained heat of the product will set fused creases.

Symptom:

Failure will occur when fused creases eventually cool and cannot be separated without tearing the barrier.

Likely Cause: Product has been dried but not allowed to tumble in cool down cycle.

Recommend: Review procedures and be certain all loads of barrier product be allowed to complete the cool down cycle.

Symptom:

Failure may appear as single tiny pinholes, multiple pinholes in a linear group or larger