

## New care symbols are being rolled out

In 2005, a new international standard was published by ISO which was taken up by the CEN committee responsible. The individual national organisations responsible for publishing EN standards were instructed to publish EN versions of this standard. *With respect to Europe and the EEA any old versions of the EN had to be replaced by October 2005 these countries are: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.*

The new standard is published under the references "ISO 3758" and "EN ISO 3758" and gives the care symbols and guidance for their meaning and use on garments and other textile articles. This 2005 standard has been technically revised and has a number of new symbols and some other changes from the old version.






The old and seldom used symbol for any dry cleaning solvent <sup>(A)</sup> for example has gone and new symbols for (professional) wet cleaning have been included. New symbols for bleaching have been included as well as the changed symbol for "do not bleach".

The underlining bar used for the gentlest washing has also changed so that it is a double bar now instead of a broken bar as it was previously.




### Washing

-  Normal wash
-  Gentle action
-  Normal action
-  Gentle action
-  Normal action
-  Gentle action
-  Very gentle action
-  Normal action
-  Gentle action
-  Very gentle action
-  Hand wash
-  Do not wash





### Dry cleaning

-  Dry clean in any solvent<sup>1</sup>
-  As above with limits<sup>2</sup>
-  Dry clean in hydrocarbon solvent
-  As above with limits<sup>2</sup>
-  Do not dry clean




### Bleaching

-  Any bleach
-  Oxygen bleach only
-  Do not bleach








### Ironing

-  Hot iron (max 200C)
-  Moderate iron (max 150C)
-  Cool iron (max 110C)
-  Do not iron





### Machine Drying

-  Normal tumble drying
-  Mild tumble drying
-  Do not tumble dry

### Natural Drying

-  Dry in the shade
-  Dry flat or  in shade
-  Drip dry or  in shade
-  Line dry or  in shade

### Professional Wet Cleaning

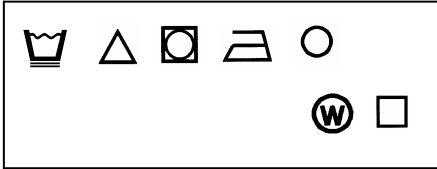
-  Professional wet clean
-  As above with gentle action
-  As above with gentlest action
-  Do not wet clean

<sup>1</sup> Chlorinated or non chlorinated hydrocarbon solvent

<sup>2</sup> Strict control on temperature and addition of water

In the European Union, the symbols should be used in a specific order and all 5 standard symbols<sup>3</sup> must be used on the label:










According to ISO 3758, if dry cleaning and professional wet cleaning are to be specified, then the wet clean symbol should appear separately, directly under the dry clean symbol. The natural drying symbol is an optional symbol but if used, should again be separate from the main 5 and under the other symbols as shown. Ginetex stipulates that the wet clean and natural drying symbols are 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively after the original 5 symbols. In order to comply with both regimes, the following design could be used.



The ISO standard allows for the use of a series of dots in the wash tub symbol indicating the maximum wash temperature as an alternative to the temperature value. This system is used in the USA predominantly<sup>4</sup>.

(Maximum)	(200F)	(160F)	(140F)	(120F)	(105F)	(65F-85F)
Symbol(s)	95C ••• •••	70C ••• ••	60C •• ••	50C •••	40C ••	30C •

There are some other symbols you may see from time to time which do not appear in the ISO list but which are used on labels occasionally and have their origins in the list of USA symbols. Some of these are listed below. You should make sure they are not mixed with the ISO symbols, as Ginetex would not accept it.

-  Do not use steam when ironing
-  Do not wring
-  Short cycle dry clean
-  Reduced moisture in dry cleaning process
-  Low heat in dry cleaning
-  No steam finishing
-  Tumble dry – no heat
-  Tumble dry - hot
-  Dry clean with any solvent <sup>5</sup>

The complete list of symbols for use in the USA is given on the web site:

<http://www.textileaffairs.com/acsguide.htm>

More information on the European system of care labelling can be obtained from:

[http://www.ginetex.org/ginetex\\_web/index.html](http://www.ginetex.org/ginetex_web/index.html)

<sup>3</sup> Standard 5 symbols as shown on the top row of label pictogram above.

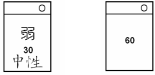
<sup>4</sup> In the US system, 3 dots indicates "hot" and 2 dots indicates "medium" setting. In the Ginetex and ISO systems, 2 dots is "Normal" and there is no 3 dot setting.

<sup>5</sup> The Any solvent symbol (still used in the US) is no longer used in the ISO and Ginetex systems.

The Japanese care symbols are a little different; the following symbols show some of these differences:



The wash tub indicates hand-wash



The washing machine symbol indicates machine wash.



The iron is familiar but the wavy line indicates the need for a cloth over the work whilst pressing.



The flask indicates chlorine bleach is permissible.



The hanging garment indicates line drying and the diagonal shading indicates drying in the shade.



Garment symbols without hangers indicate flat dry (The character on the garment means "flat")



Dry cleaning is indicated by a circle with a wavy line (the text indicates "dry").

The symbols on the labels intended for the Japanese market shall be in



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