

you have stains to remove, use Javex type, but not hot or too strong.

Q: Why do nylon blouses go at the seams?

A: Those of you who sew know that when you cut and handle pieces of a slippery fabric that frays readily, you have to be very careful, and finish your seams carefully. Nylon is one of the smoothest fibres, and in the filament form, where it is not cut up or crimped, it naturally makes a smooth, slippery yarn. If that yarn is woven into the type of fabric from which it can ravel easily at the edges, the seams will have to be carefully looked after. Unfortunately, even on some high priced garments, the seams are very poor. Do not buy blouses or slips of this kind of fabric unless they are French, flat-felled or overcast seams. Pinking, or machine edging put on only 1/16" from the stitching are not enough. Tricot knit fabrics will not run or fray, and so almost any kind of seam is fine on those.

Q: I had trouble with a white blouse not long ago. I was ironing it when suddenly there was a hole, and it is just ruined.

A: Do you know what kind of material it is? Is there a label on it? We all know that any fibre will scorch or melt if we use too much heat, but there are only three which are really temperamental. Ironing is one place where fibre identification on the goods we buy would be a help. Nylon is generally identified through the good sense of the makers, du Pont or C-I-L, but in blends you may not know it's there, and it still needs ironing care. Dynel is very heat sensitive, but we haven't met it much yet, and I think it will be used mainly in socks and blankets anyway. The joker that we most often meet after the iron disappears through our blouse or slip is acetate. The reason you have a hazy memory that sometimes rayon gives you trouble this way and sometimes not, is that up until last summer, acetate and the regenerated cellulose fibres viscose and cuprammonium were all called "rayon". Now rayon refers only to viscose (or cupr. of which there is a little made—Bemberg) and cellulose acetate is identified as a separate entity. So **IF** there is a label you will be all right now. If it had been labelled acetate you would have known you should have just a **warm** iron.

Q: A friend of mine had a different experience. She bought a blouse with a label that said "nylon" in large letters. When she washed it, it did not seem like nylon. It had to be dampened and thoroughly ironed before it looked right. She had thought she had something that could be ironed very quickly while dry and she was quite disappointed. When she took it back to the store the salesgirl showed her the same label on a similar blouse and there, below "nylon" but in very small letters was "acetate".

A: The moral to that is "read every word on the label". And I suspect from your description that there is another moral for our consumer drives. If that blouse dried no faster

than an all-acetate one, there must have been very little nylon in it. CAC is asking for fibre content labels that tell what fibres are present, as that one was supposed to do thus, but we want the fibre present in the largest proportion written first — your blouse would, under this system that we are pressing, have been labelled "A & N". Besides reading every word we need to analyze what the words mean. For example, a label might say "tested and approved" but there is no indication of what it was tested for — or what about it is approved. Was it tested for fastness of color, or the strength of the threads or something else? Does it mean the belt is approved as being dry cleanable? Or is it just the style that has been approved as attractive? The label doesn't mean a thing.

Q: I'm wondering about wool — my wool skirts. I press them often and thoroughly but they do not seem soft and fresh looking like some of my friends' skirts that have been in use just as long.

A: Perhaps you press them too thoroughly. One of the beauties of wool is its springiness and soft feel. When you press, you want to take advantage of that natural elasticity, and let the fibres help you restore the good appearance of your skirts or dresses. One important precaution is not to use too hot an iron, and another is do not over press. Stop when the wool is still steaming slightly. There is more to it than that of course. A demonstration, when you take 'Know Your Fabrics', can cover it more thoroughly.

Q: What are the rules for washing a wool skirt or sweater?

A: When you wash fabric made of any fibre you run the chance of shrinkage caused by the fabric relaxing in water from the strains put on it in spinning and weaving or knitting, unless the cloth is preshrunk. With wool, there is the additional danger of matting or felting, getting progressively smaller and thicker until you have a hard felt. The best way to wash woollens is to avoid the conditions which encourage felting. These are moisture, which you can't avoid unless you dry clean, alkali, and movement, especially in and out of the water. An automatic washer with a tumbling action like a commercial laundry's wash wheel will do the best job of felting you ever saw! So wash your sweaters in a lukewarm bath with lots of mild soap or detergent, and as little rubbing and plunging in and out of the water as possible. Then, because wool is weaker when wet, squeeze out excess water, and roll the garment in a towel. If you can dry flat, then the garment won't be supporting the weight of all the water, pulling it out of shape.

Q: I would like to know something about the newer fibres. We heard about orlon and I saw a dress that was orlon and cotton. Is it as good as nylon?

A: That's like asking, "Is steel as good as aluminum?", or, "Is wool as good as cotton?" Each fibre now in use has its own good and