

# Puzzled About Wash-and-Wear?

"Life is just a bowl of labels" is today's parody on an old song. This time, however, it's a sugar bowl or soup tureen in a handy corner where homemakers tuck away all the tags and labels taken off fabric purchases for reference, be they yard goods, ready to wear, or household linens.

Sometimes though, the varying claims, names and directions are confusing. Take the wash-and-wear fabrics. Everyone loves them, wants them, but people have a lot of question about them, too. Here are some they ask, together with the answers:

### DIFFERENCE

What is the difference between wash-and-wear and drip-dry?

There isn't any difference really. Drip-dry was a quick capsule description which told women how to handle these cottons. So the women's wear industry adopted it. Men, however, rejected drip-dry as too reminiscent of puddles-on-the-bathroom floor. The men's wear field felt the term wash-and-wear was more acceptable.

Why should I buy wash-and-wear cottons when Dacron, Nylon and other miracle fibres were laboratory-tailored especially to resist wrinkling, and to wash without

ironing? The miracle fibres are specialists to meet special needs. Wash-and-wear cottons are a jack-of-all-trades fabric offered in a wide variety of weaves, textures, prints and colors. They are used far more extensively. Also, cottons have a crispness in tailoring and wear which long ago made it America's favorite fabric. Cottons are absorbent too, which means they are cooler in summer, more comfortable in winter. Often wash-and-wear cottons are less expensive than the miracle fabrics.

What makes cottons wash-and-wear? They never used to be. No. This innovation developed six to eight years ago. After the cotton fabric is woven, dyed or printed, a special invisible chemical finish is applied and baked into the fabric. This finish adds a resilience to the fabric. Thus the fabric springs back more rapidly from creasing.

WASHOUT Doesn't this chemical finish wash out after a few launderings?

It shouldn't, but sometimes if it is improperly applied, or the quality substandard, it will disappear after four or five washings. This creates a new hazard. In applying the finish the fabric is stabilized. The fabric is then cut and sewn into standard size clothing. Later when the finish washes out with it. Suddenly a dress or pants becomes too tight!

How can I tell whether a wash-and-wear finish will be satisfactory?

Often the brand name of a reputable garment or mill manufacturer will serve as a guide. However, no one can determine with the naked eye how satisfactory the finish will be. That is why the new electronic test instrument which the Sanforized people have invented recently, is so important. It measures scientifically and exactly how smooth a fabric is after washing. This indicates how much ironing is needed.

How can I find the wash-and-wear cottons that pass this electronic test? They are in many of your local stores. They will have a tag or label on which "Sanforized-Plus" is part of the descriptive copy. Any cotton fabric with this name has passed successfully a series of rigid tests that promise satisfactory performance of the fabric. This means such cottons won't shrink out of fit. They will resist wrinkles. Many can be machine washed. They need only a minimum of ironing.

### IRONED

Must all wash-and-wear cottons be ironed?

How particular are you? What's the end use? Johnny's denim pants can go from the washing machine to Johnny's waistline without further attention—especially if there are four of five Johnnies in one family. But on school-going and party-going clothes, most mothers will want to do a little touch-up ironing. Notice, however, this takes only 2 or 3 minutes, whereas the same chore, formerly took 10 to 15 minutes. For business-going men and women, that extra neatness of a touch-up ironing is well worth the added effort.

Does the wash-and-wear quality affect the colorfastness of a fabric?

No. There is no connection between the two.

Why do some wash-and-wear cottons "yellow" in the wash?

Chlorine bleaches "attack" some textile finishes and actually change them chemically. You will find that many wash-and-wear tags warn against using chlorine bleach. Others proclaim the finish is "non-chlorine retentive," meaning the finish is not affected by chlorine bleach. This is another reason why it is important to keep for reference the tags of each fabric and garment you buy. With each fabric demanding special handling, the contents of that sugar bowl or soup tureen gets more and more valuable.

**VISITORS DINE** Mr. and Mrs. Paul Levinger, visiting Torrance from Providence, R. I., recently dined at The Pen & Quill restaurant in Manhattan Beach as the party guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. Babin. Mr. Levinger is executive vice-president of Speidel Corp.

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**WHITE SHIRTS**  
**\$1.29**

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**BADMINTON**  
• 2 Rackets  
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• Bird  
**\$1.66**

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5-Piece Set (By TOASTMASTER)  
**\$5.88**

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**59¢**

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**BASKETS**  
To Be Filled  
All Varieties  
**10¢ up**

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Keeps Hair Looking Neat  
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Cottage White  
**\$1.66** Gal.

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2 in 1, Stain & Oil  
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**\$1.77**

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**BRUSHES**  
1" 29¢  
1 1/2" 39¢  
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## PTA News

**Adams Elementary PTA** convened March 21, 7:30 p.m. at the cafeteria 2121 238th Street.

Mrs. Ofville Hoy, program chairman, announced that the theme for the evening was "We Open the Door to New Frontiers for Children and Youth." A panel, consisting of parents and teachers was led by a school psychologist. The discussion was on how the school and the home can work together for the betterment of our children.

Election of officers was also on the agenda. Refreshments were served with first grade mothers as hostesses.

—Mrs. Langerud

**ANZA PTA** — Topic for March 16, at 8 p.m. was "Rough Seas"—Discipline at school, with a panel of teachers and parents. Mrs. M. Hennigan, teacher; Evan Harrington, parent; Philip Korman, principal; Lamar Ormond, psychologist; and Marshall Hoalst, student.

Nominating committee gave its report.

Mrs. William Faulds, ways and means chairman, commented on our coming Easter fashion show. Children and members will be parading the runway wearing fashions made by themselves.

At the recent Anza PTA board meeting it was voted to sponsor Girl Scout Pack 2507.

Baby sitting provided at each PTA meeting.

—Mrs. E. Busnardo

**CRENSHAW PTA** meeting promises to be interesting this month. The theme will be "Education TV."

A speaker from UCLA will discuss different methods of Educational TV, and will display several different machines, such as ear phones, and tape recorders. Those who attend will hear of the experiment that has been going on in Chicago and different parts of the country with educational TV.

Mr. Dooley, principal of Crenshaw will also discuss some pros and cons on the subject. He will also explain how it is being put into practice in respective areas of learning at Crenshaw.

An honorary life membership was presented to Mrs. William Drake at the Founder's Day Program included in the meeting of February 15. Mrs. Drake is a past President of Crenshaw PTA. She is the founder of the PTA sponsored library.

March 23 will be the date of the second skating party to be sponsored by PTA this year. It will be held at the Torrance Roller-O-Drome. The lower grades will skate from 6 to 7:30. The upper grades will have their turn from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Admission is 50 cents. All elementary school-age children are invited to come and bring their parents for a big night of fun.