



## Technical tips –Wet Cleaning

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Wet cleaning has been an important part of the fabricare industry for years. While dry cleaning is necessary and often the best way to restore garments to a like new condition, there are some circumstances that dictate the use of water. We have all seen care labels that say **do not dry clean** or **machine wash** and we have also seen some labels recommend **professional wet clean**. We have seen the change in clothing trends and know that our bread and butter, the business dressed crowd, has abandoned their traditional garb for more casual attire. Sometimes we see garments that are soiled to the extent that cleaning with water may be the only solution.

Whatever the case for Wet Cleaning, we owe it to the consumers to give them the best processed garments using the best products and processes. Wet Cleaning is not washing. Anyone can walk into their favorite store and buy a “fine washables” detergent and wash garments. Even if done by hand in a small wash tub, Wet Cleaning is a controlled specialized process. The average Joe cannot have a vendor rep program their machine for limited mechanical action, water levels and temperatures. They cannot control specific drying temperatures or finish garments on special equipment. Most important of all they cannot get the specialized Wet Cleaning detergents, conditioners or fabric finish needed for true Wet Cleaning. Let’s take a look at some characteristics of Wet Cleaning products.

- ❖ Detergents
  - Should be nearly Ph neutral.
  - Contain buffers.
- ❖ Conditioners
  - Impart a soft, supple feel.
  - Prevent static and lint.
- ❖ Fabric finish (sizing)
  - Imparts a crisp firm hand.
  - Dissolves completely and uniformly in water.

Wet Clean specific products are designed to help protect the garments and return them to a like new finish. Consult your FabriClean salesman for information on these products. Most chemical companies, both Dry Clean and Laundry, have full lines of these products and can get you set up. Remember cold water itself can be harsh, it made the Grand Canyon.