

Handout 5.4: Care Symbol Guide and Laundry Sequence

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Directions: Fill in Part 1 and Part 2 on Day 1. Take this sheet to the laundry basket for Part 2. Fill in Part 3 during the ruin slides. Fill in Part 4 on Day 2 during the laundry sequence. Keep this sheet; it is the study sheet for the Fibers and Care Quiz.

Word bank in other languages

[Check with a native speaker before printing.]

English	Turkish	Portuguese	Spanish
care label	bakım etiketi	etiqueta de conservação	etiqueta de cuidado
wash	yıkamak	lavar	lavar
bleach	çamaşır suyu	água sanitária (alvejante)	cloro (blanqueador)
dry	kurutmak	secar	secar
tumble dry	makinede kurutmak	secar na máquina	secar en secadora
line dry	asarak kurutmak	secar no varal	secar al aire
hand wash	elde yıkamak	lavar à mão	lavar a mano
iron	ütülemek	passar a ferro	planchar
dry clean	kuru temizleme	lavar a seco	limpieza en seco
shrink	çekmek	encolher	encogerse
stain	leke	mancha	mancha
detergent	deterjan	detergente (sabão)	detergente (jabón)
sort	ayırmak	separar	separar
fold	katlamak	dobrar	doblar

Part 1: The five symbol families

Draw the symbol in the box. Write what the marks mean.

Family	The basic shape	Draw it	What the dots mean	What the bars mean	What an X over it means
1. Washing	A washtub				
2. Bleaching	A triangle		(no dots)	(no bars)	

3. Drying	A square				
4. Ironing	An iron			(no bars)	
5. Professional care	A circle		(no dots)		

Extra marks to know:

The mark	What it means
A hand inside the washtub	
A circle inside the drying square	
A line inside the drying square	
A letter P or F inside the circle	
An X through the steam lines under the iron	

One sentence: why is there a care label in your clothes at all? Who put it there and who made them?

Part 2: Sort the basket

Read every tag. Put each garment under the right sign, then write it here.

Garment	Care group (hot or warm / cold / hand wash, line dry, or professional)	The symbol that decided it
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Second pass. In the cold pile, separate whites from colors.

Whites: _____

Colors: _____

Why does that split matter? _____

Part 3: What ruins clothes, and what it costs

What happened	Why the fiber did that	Which symbol would have stopped it	Cost to replace
Hot water and a hot dryer on a wool sweater			
A hot dryer on leggings with spandex			
Chlorine bleach on a colored shirt			



A hot iron on a polyester shirt			
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Total damage from one bad load: \$_____

Part 4: The laundry sequence, start to finish

Step	What you do	Why it matters
1. Sort		
2. Treat a stain		
3. Load		
4. Detergent		
5. Wash		
6. Dry or hang		
7. Fold or hang up		

Daily, weekly, seasonal care. Write one thing in each box.

Daily	Weekly	Seasonal

One sentence: why is storing a sweater dirty over the summer worse than storing it clean?



Day 1 exit card (tear off or write on an index card)

1. One care symbol you will look for tonight:



2. One thing that ruins clothes, and the fiber reason:



3. One question:



Teacher key

Part 1, the five families.

Family	Shape	Dots	Bars	X over it
Washing	Washtub	Temperature: one dot coolest, more dots hotter	Be gentler: one bar permanent press, two bars delicate	Do not wash in water
Bleaching	Triangle	None	None	Do not bleach. An empty triangle means any bleach; diagonal lines inside mean non-chlorine bleach only
Drying	Square	Heat level in the tumble dryer	Be gentler in the dryer	Do not tumble dry
Ironing	Iron shape	Heat level: one dot low, two medium, three high	None	Do not iron
Professional care	Circle	None	Be gentler in the cleaning process	Do not dry clean

Extra marks: a hand inside the washtub means hand wash only. A circle inside the square means tumble dry. A line inside the square means line dry (hang it). A P or an F inside the circle tells the dry cleaner which solvent to use. An X through the steam lines means no steam while ironing.

Why the label is there: in the United States a permanent care label is required in most garments by the Federal Trade Commission's Care Labeling Rule, so the manufacturer has to tell the buyer how to clean the item. That is a consumer protection, which is why CTE FCL 4. h) is cited on this lesson.

Part 2. Answers depend on the actual basket. Score complete, partial, or missing: complete means every garment placed with the symbol that decided it named. The whites-and-colors split matters because dye bleeds in water, especially in warm water and especially the first few washes, so a red shirt in a load of whites turns the load pink; also because whites can take bleach and colors cannot.

Part 3.

What happened	Fiber reason	The symbol	Replacement, about
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Hot water and hot dryer on wool	Heat and agitation make the scales on the wool fiber lock together; the sweater felts, shrinks, and stiffens, permanently	A hand in the washtub (hand wash only) or an X over the tumble dry square	\$42
Hot dryer on spandex leggings	Heat breaks down the elastic fiber so it stops springing back; the knees stay baggy	A square with a line inside (line dry) or a low or no heat dryer symbol	\$14
Chlorine bleach on a colored shirt	Bleach strips the dye, in patches, and there is no way to put it back	A triangle with an X, or a triangle with diagonal lines (non-chlorine only)	\$12
Hot iron on polyester	Polyester melts instead of burning, so the plate leaves a shine or a hole	An iron with one dot (low heat) or an iron with an X	\$20

Total, about \$88 from one bad load. *[Sal: use your own prices; the total is the point, not the numbers.]*

Part 4, the sequence and the reasons.

Step	What you do	Why
Sort	By color and by care symbol; check pockets	Dye bleeds; a wool and a towel do not want the same water; a pen in a pocket ruins a load
Treat a stain	Pretreat before it goes in	A wash sets a stain and a dryer bakes it in permanently
Load	Loose, not packed	Clothes need room to move or they do not get clean
Detergent	The amount on the cap for the load size	Extra detergent stays in the fabric, holds dirt, and stiffens the cloth
Wash	The temperature and cycle the tag says	The tag is the manufacturer telling you what the fiber can survive
Dry or hang	The square symbol decides; hang anything with	Heat is what ruins most

	spandex, wool, or a print	garments
Fold or hang up	Right away	A wrinkle set in a hot pile is an ironing job you did not have to do

Daily: hang it up or put it in the hamper, check for a stain, air out what you wore. Weekly: the wash, and check what needs a repair. Seasonal: store it clean, folded or hung, in a closed container; check for missing buttons before you put it away.

Storing dirty: sweat, food, and body oils attract insects such as clothes moths and carpet beetles, and stains set permanently over months.

Standards checked by this handout: NYS ATPD 3. Maintenance a), b), and c); CTE SUS 1. Resources e); CTE FCL 4. Buying Goods and Services h); NYS FACS Standard 2 (Intermediate) PI C; CDOS 3a Basic Skills; National FCS 3.0 16.2.3, 16.2.5, and 16.4.3.