COLLECTIVE STUDIO · CARE LABEL GUIDE

Care symbols, explained

The ISO 3758 symbols, administered by GINETEX, used on clothing care labels in Europe, the UK and many other markets. On the label they run in a fixed order: wash, bleach, dry, iron, professional care.

1 WASHING

The number is the maximum water temperature in °C. One bar under the tub means a mild cycle, two bars a very mild one.



Wash at 95°C
normal cycle



Wash at 70°C
normal cycle



Wash at 60°C
normal cycle



Wash at 60°C
mild cycle



Wash at 40°C
normal cycle



Wash at 40°C
mild cycle



Wash at 40°C
very mild cycle



Wash at 30°C
normal cycle



Wash at 30°C
mild cycle



Wash at 30°C
very mild cycle



Hand wash
max 40°C



Hand wash cool
about 20 to 30°C



Do not wash
no domestic washing

2 BLEACHING

A triangle covers bleach of any kind.



Any bleach
chlorine or oxygen



Oxygen bleach only
no chlorine bleach



Do not bleach
bleach-free detergent

3 TUMBLE DRYING

Circle in a square. Dots show the heat.



Tumble dry
normal heat, max 80°C



Tumble dry low
reduced heat, max 60°C



Do not tumble dry

4 NATURAL DRYING

Lines in a square. Vertical: hang to dry. Horizontal: lay flat. Two lines: drip dry, straight from the wash without spinning. A corner stroke: in the shade.



Line dry
hang to dry



Drip line dry
hang up wet



Dry flat
lay flat to dry



Drip dry flat
lay flat while wet



Line dry
in the shade



Drip line dry
in the shade



Dry flat
in the shade



Drip dry flat
in the shade

5 IRONING

Dots give the maximum iron setting. Take it from the care label, not from the fibre content.



Hot iron
cotton, linen setting



Warm iron
wool, silk, polyester, viscose setting



Cool iron
acrylic, nylon, acetate setting



Cool iron, no steam
steam may cause damage



Do not iron

6 PROFESSIONAL CARE

For the dry cleaner. Letters name the process. A bar under the circle means a mild process, two bars a very mild one.



Dry clean, P
perc or hydrocarbons



Dry clean, P, mild
gentler process



Dry clean, F
hydrocarbons only



Dry clean, F, mild
gentler process



Do not dry clean
no solvent-based stain removers



Wet clean
professional process



Wet clean, mild
gentler process



Wet clean, very mild
very gentle process

Do not wet clean

A cross means do not. A milder treatment or a lower temperature than the label shows is always allowed.

Selling in the US? The FTC Care Labeling Rule needs words, or ASTM D5489 symbols. An ISO symbol row alone does not comply.

Trademarks. The care symbols are registered trademarks of GINETEX in many countries. This chart explains them; it is not label artwork.

Sources: GINETEX care symbols under ISO 3758:2023; FTC, Clothes Captioning: Complying with the Care Labeling Rule. Checked November 2026.

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