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The garment: A silk, tan green men's sport jacket. The care label reads: "dry clean only" with no international code symbols.

The problem: After drycleaning in perchlorethylene (perc), the areas that were backed with an interfacing, such as the cuffs, pockets, shoulders, and bottom hem, now look a shade darker. The adhesive material used to bind the facings to the shell fabric partially dissolved in solvent during drycleaning, leached to the surface, and caused self-staining.

Who's responsible? The manufacturer, since the jacket fabric was not able to withstand the recommended care instructions without severe dye disturbance.

What to do: This jacket should be returned to the retailer or manufacturer.

Click image for a larger view



After drycleaning, many areas of this jacket became shaded.



The dark stains from the adhesive in the interfaced areas are readily seen in this close up view.

Since the damage is related to solvent power, a process using a lower power solvent (such as petroleum, hydrocarbon, or GreenEarth) may have been successful. Wet cleaning is not advisable for this jacket. However, according to the United States care labeling regulation, this dress could be cleaned safely in any solvent, including perc. This interpretation may differ in other countries.