

**From:** Drycleaning & Laundry Institute <ifihotpress@ifi.org>  
**Subject:** Heads Up! for This Dress  
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INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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**The garment:** A gold colored, 100% silk satin cocktail dress with attached crystal rhinestones on the front of the skirt. The care label reads: "Professionally dry clean only--protect and cover crystal trim." The International Code symbols indicate: dryclean in any solvent, do not wash, do not bleach, and use a low temperature iron.

**The problem:** During the tumbling action of drycleaning in any solvent, the sharp edges of the crystal rhinestones rub the fabric in random areas and cause "snags" in the fabric.

**Who's responsible?** The manufacturer, since there is no known technology or practical method of covering or protecting this type trim from contact with other areas of fabric during solvent immersion and the tumbling necessary during professional cleaning. This fashion was not able to withstand the recommended care instructions without risk of fabric damage from its own trim.

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

*According to the care label, this dress could be cleaned safely in any solvent including perc. Because the self-snagging damage is related to physical contact from its own trim during the normal tumbling action of any machine immersion care, cleaning in any alternative solvent would not make a difference. Also, this particular dress is not safe to wetclean.*

Featuring a garment does not imply that a manufacturer is knowingly or continually producing defective goods. While this particular item was deemed unable to withstand the recommended care process, other comparable garments may or may not hold up to the care instructions.

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This dress has many pieces of crystal trim all over the skirt section that cannot be protected properly during cleaning.



The snagged fabric damage that occurred after drycleaning is visible in this close-up view.

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