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# heads UP

for this garment

## INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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The black portion of this dress could not withstand drycleaning without dye bleeding.

August 13, 2009

**The garment:** A black & white dress with polyester and spandex black woven skirt and polyester, nylon and spandex white knit bodice. The care label states: "dry clean" with no International code symbols.

**The problem:** During drycleaning in perchlorethylene (perc), the black fabric dye bleeds, resulting in uneven transfer of black color onto the white top section.

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

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



After drycleaning, the dye transfer is 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. In some cases careful wetcleaning is possible. 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

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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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