

heads UP

for this garment

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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The garment: A long purple silk gown with bead trim at the neck. The care label reads, "Dry Clean Only-Do Not Iron Directly on Beads or Sequins". There are no international cleanability symbols.

This gown has plastic trim at the neck area that dissolved during acceptable drycleaning procedures.

The problem: After drycleaning in perchlorethylene solvent the black plastic trim partially dissolved resulting in an objectionable appearance to the trim, sticking together, as well as self-staining of the nearby dress fabric. The plastic used to make some of the trim on this dress dissolves during drycleaning. The heat of drying or pressing is not a factor in the damage.



Who's responsible? The manufacturer, since all components on a garment must be able to withstand the recommended professional cleaning process, as labeled.

This close up view of the trim reveals that the black plastic stones dissolved during cleaning and stuck together.

What to do: This gown should be returned to the place of purchase or manufacturer.

According to the United States Care Labeling Regulation, this garment as labeled, can be safely cleaned in any drycleaning system, including perc. As the damage was related to solvent power, it is possible that a system with a lower solvent power (such as petroleum, hydrocarbon, or GreenEarth®) or careful wet cleaning may have been successful but it is the manufacturer's responsibility to have stated that on the care label.

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