

# heads UP for this garment

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE ANALYSIS LABORATORY

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February 18, 2010

**The garment:** A pair of men's all cotton denim black jean pants. The care label states: "dry clean" with the appropriate International code symbol circle with a "P" inside.

**The problem:** During drycleaning in perchlorethylene (perc), the black dye bleeds, resulting in uneven fading of color to a more bluish hue with streaks.

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

**What to do:** This pair of jeans should be returned to the retailer or manufacturer.

Click image for a larger view



This black pair of jeans could not withstand drycleaning without severe dye fading.



After drycleaning, as labeled, there has been so much loss of black color that the jeans look bluish with streaks.

Since the damage is related to solvent power, a process using a lower power solvent (such as petroleum, hydrocarbon, or GreenEarth) may have been more successful. In some cases careful gentle wet cleaning of such jeans is possible to avoid severe fading and streaks. However, according to the United States care labeling regulation, this pair of denim pants could be cleaned safely in any solvent, including perc. Since there is an attached International Code cleaning symbol that means the same thing, then this interpretation should be the same for all countries.

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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