

DRY CLEANING, CARE, AND HANDLING OF YOUR NEW DEMOULIN UNIFORMS

Congratulations on your purchase of new DeMoulin uniforms. To extend the life and retain the appearance of your DeMoulin uniforms, you need to utilize the following information on preventive maintenance and handling.

Probably the most detrimental agent to band uniform fabric and fiber is perspiration. Second only to perspiration are dirt and grime particles that can embed into the material and do permanent harm to the dye and fibers, causing a discoloration and permanent damage.

The following information is provided to help you in maintaining your uniforms in tip-top condition.

DRY CLEANING - Responsibilities of the Purchaser, Wearer & Dry Cleaner

Purchaser's Responsibilities

A) School/Band/Organizational Officials

- 1) Insure that the care recommendations contained herein and those on care labels inside each uniform garment piece are communicated effectively to the professional dry cleaner selected and each uniform garment wearer on an individual basis.
- 2) It is suggested that a school/band/organizational official screen prospective dry cleaning establishments and select one which is reputable, experienced in cleaning items with a potential for staining, and will conform to the suggested recommendations for dry cleaning spelled out further herein.
- 3) A trial uniform garment should be dry cleaned and evaluated before committal of any other uniform garments in order to examine conformance to recommendations. This evaluation should be a joint effort of a school/band/organizational official and the dry cleaner, with final decision to approve or disapprove resting upon the school/band/organizational official.
- 4) After 1. through 3. are initially done, the school/band/organizational official should make random checks in order to sustain:
 - a) the qualification of the dry cleaner and,
 - b) the wearer's awareness of and conformance to all care recommendations.

B) Wearer's Responsibilities

- 1) Read and understand the complete user care responsibilities contained herein and on the care label inside each uniform garment piece.
- 2) Do not wash the uniform garment. Professional dry clean only.
- 3) Do not hand clean in any manner. Professional dry clean only.
- 4) Do not tumble dry or heat in any manner, such as hand ironing, blow drying, or over a hot stove, a wet uniform garment piece. Hang properly and allow to air dry at ambient conditions. Follow-up promptly after air drying with requisite dry cleaning and/or pressing.
- 5) Do not contact uniform garment (for the purpose of modifying conditions surrounding use of the garment) with:
 - a) antistats,
 - b) water/oil proofers,
 - c) spot cleaning chemicals,
 - d) other topical chemicals such as: bleaches, spray deodorants, perfumes, brighteners, facial makeup, etc.
- 6) Examine the uniform garment after each use for soiling, stains, etc.
- 7) Abnormally stained uniform garments should be cleaned as soon as possible after the staining occurs by the approved professional dry cleaner. Do not attempt to hand clean.
- 8) Do not store uniform garment wet. Follow-up as in B4. above.
- 9) Do not store stained uniform garment for long periods of time such as at the end of the current band use season until the next band use season.
Time tends to set stains.
- 10) Examine the uniform garment before dry cleaning and identify location and type of stain (if possible) to the dry cleaner on delivery of the garment for cleaning.
- 11) Examine uniform garments at the dry cleaners after cleaning to determine whether or not the identified stains have been removed or if staining has occurred on dry cleaning and/or pressing.
Follow up undesirable variances immediately.
- 12) Do not hand press for touch up. Professional press only.
- 13) Any unsatisfactory conditions found after all of the above have been followed up rigorously should be referred to the uniform garment manufacturer first.

Dry Cleaner's Responsibilities

- A) Read and understand the complete user care responsibilities contained herein and cooperate with the uniform garment user in their compliance to them.

B) Read, understand, and agree to comply with the dry cleaning recommendations contained herein; namely,

1) Dry Cleaning Chemicals

a) It is suggested that one do not use cationic detergents such as Caled Nu-Touch or equivalent.

Nonionic and anionic detergents are preferred

b) The currently used solvent systems for dry cleaning will all function effectively to satisfy our recommendations if they are set up and maintained properly. The type systems in order of preference are:

Valclean, Perchloroethylene, and Naptha.

The judgement as to which system to use will depend on such factors as:

(1) availability,

(2) set up and maintenance costs, and

(3) cooperation of chemical suppliers in complying with maintenance testing.

c) The detergent/solvent/water ratios should be setup, monitored, and maintained at optimum conditions dictated by:

(1) type detergent used,

(2) amount of initial detergent charge used,

(3) amount of water present,

(4) type solvent used,

(5) solvent recharge level dictated by tests,

(6) acid count/alkalinity level, and

(7) type and stain character of the uniform garment to be cleaned.

d) When system optimums can not be maintained, then recharge or distillation of the solvent must be implemented to allow achievement of optimums.

Strict adherence to chemical suppliers specifications are a must.

e) Detergent additives can contribute to the amount of bleed-off and subsequent staining of lighter colored fabrics.

2) Dry Cleaning/Pressing Equipment

a) Dry cleaning units should be equipped with an activated charcoal filtration unit or equivalent which is functional and maintained.

b) A sight glass should be easily visible, clean, and clear so as to observe any discoloration of the solvent solution.

c) Solvent flow rate should be within equipment manufacturer's specifications to insure proper turnover and filtration.

d) Dry cleaning equipment should have a distillation capacity for distilling the dry cleaning solvent solution.

e) Pressing equipment should be maintained clean and functional to the extent that the uniform garments can be pressed at the garment care label recommended temperature, time, and pressures without damaging soiling, or staining it.

3) Quality Assurance Steps

a) All equipment should be inspected prior to loading of uniform garments to insure that it is clean and free of contaminants.

b) Dry cleaning loads should conform to equipment manufacturer's specifications in order to maintain proper solvent solution to uniform garment ratio.

c) Clean predominantly white and light colored uniform garments in separate load from predominantly dark colored ones.

d) Examine each uniform garment piece for unusual soiling or stains, particularly those pointed out by the user/wearer when the uniform garment was delivered for cleaning.

e) Prespot and/or postspot the uniform garments as per the best established trade practices being careful not to use those chemicals which may cause immediate or latent bleed-off problems.

f) A trial uniform garment should be dry cleaned to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleaning cycle to clean and not stain it. Final decision to approve the effectiveness of the cleaning cycle rests with the school/band/organizational official. If approved, the garment becomes the acceptance target by which all other dry cleaning loads will be judged.

g) If the bleed-off of residual superfluous dyestuffs, noted during the running of a test uniform garment cleaning or that of a full normal load, is not all cleaned out of the solvent solution by the filtration unit, then the cycle length should be extended in length or other corrective action taken until it does.

h) Inspect the dry cleaned and undried uniform garments as they are removed from the dry cleaning unit. Do not dry in the drying unit if spots or stains remain, rather respot and/or release.

i) At no time should the dry cleaning solution temperature exceed 85° F.

j) At no time should the dryer temperature exceed 135° F.

k) Two drying methods predominate, tumble drying and drying cabinet. The preferred method is tumble drying. To protect some decorative buttons found on uniform garments when tumble drying, just enough of the buttons as is necessary to hold the garment flaps together should be buttoned and then it should be turned inside out for drying.

l) The dried garment should be examined for stains and spots immediately. If any are found, then prompt best follow-up should be implemented to remove them.

m) After drying, the uniform garment should be pressed according to the manufacturer's instructions found on the label inside the uniform garment piece.

n) Each dry cleaned load of uniform garments should be monitored by the dry cleaner to insure that all conditions are sufficient to maintain the best quality dry cleaning with no staining evidence.

o) The dry cleaner should report any apparent variance from recommended care practices by the user to the responsible school/band/organizational official(s) as well as any apparent garment and/or fabric shortcomings.