



Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20580

August 25, 2011

Re: Garment Care Label Review

Dear FTC:

As a former solvent dry cleaner and now a professional wet cleaner, I encourage you to add "Professional Wet Clean or Professional Wet Clean Only" to the care label of garments. As society changes and seeks a healthier alternative for solvent dry cleaning, we must provide an clear and easy distinction for the consumer.

The Dry Clean industry is in the mist of a huge transformation. States have banned, are in the process of banning, or seeking alternatives to Perchloroethylene (PERC). Consumers are realizing that dry cleaning that is done with a solvent may be hazardous to their health. Landlords are evicting tenants that use any type of solvents to dry clean garments. Many dry cleaners have turned to Professional Wet Clean in part or as a whole for their dry cleaning needs. Professional Wet Clean has become the non toxic alternative to solvent dry cleaning, and rapidly becoming the choice of customers seeking a green alternative.

As a dry cleaner using this safe non toxic dry cleaning system, I have run into the same issues over and over again through the years.

The most common issue is that customers often do not accept Professional Wet Clean as a Dry Clean alternative because of the name Wet Clean. They state that the care label calls for "Dry Clean Only" referring to traditional solvent dry cleaning. Professional Wet Clean is however, accepted within our industry and with government agencies such as the EPA, CA Air Resources Board, and other local municipalities as a viable alternative. The other common issue is that manufactures will finish a garment with a water soluble finish that will dissipate in the wet cleaning of the garment.



So having “Professional Wet Clean or Professional Wet Clean Only” on a care label will server multiple functions. It will help reconfirm to the public that this is an accepted Dry Clean process that is safe for their garments, it will signify to a professional wet cleaner that the garment has been Wet Clean tested, and it will encouraged manufactures to produce more garments that do not need to be cleaned in a solvent. This labeling will provide clarity for all sides involved. We support the specific labeling of garments for “Professional Wet Clean or Professional Wet Clean Only” on the care labels of garments.

Sincerely,

Karl Huie