



Washing Your ARC-Rated PPE Apparel

How To Properly Care For Your ARC-Rated Apparel

- Avoid extended exposure to sunlight. Garment color can fade and affect the overall appearance.
- Try to repair as quickly as possible, to reduce rips and tears that may get worse over time. If repairing, ensure that the company repairing uses the same fabrics, parts and ARC-rated thread when doing repairs.
- Your ARC-rated properties do not generally wash out after a certain number of washings. Manufacturers ensure that the ARC-rated properties are good for the life of the garment, and testing information relating to ARC-rating is available on all garments if needed. Garments may become thread-barren because of extended use and eventually look faded and worn. Garments that are thread-barren, or have been damaged, should be repaired or replaced.

Washing Tips

- Read the tags included on the garment prior to washing and drying. Each fabric is different and many on the market today are delicate and will shrink, especially items noted with Polartec™ fabric. Tags may suggest washing in cold water or air drying to reduce shrinkage.
- Avoid liquid bleach and fabric softener. Additives may impact and deteriorate ARC-rating or coat fabric with film. If a softener was used, simply rewash.
- Spot treat areas that have fluids and stains with detergent, like basic Tide™. If residue still appears on garment after wash, spot treat again, and wash on extended cycle.
- Wash your garments regularly, and generally wash them separately from general apparel. You may pick up chemicals and grease on the job site that can get onto your every day clothing. Washing often ensures your clothing will last and that it is not coated by grease, salt, bug spray or other things on the jobsite.

Insect Sprays

- Avoid spraying DEET onto ARC-Rated apparel. DEET is generally flammable and increases risk for injury if exposed to electrical ARC-flash. If DEET™ is the only option you have in the field, avoid exposure to clothing and apply directly to skin.
- Seek out alternatives that are non-flammable. Some treatments even note "FR Safe". Generally Permethrin™ based treatments are non-flammable.

Hi-Visibility (Type R) Apparel

- Most ARC-rated Hi-Visibility Apparel will note a number of washings for the life of the product. This is generally due to the brilliance of the fabric deteriorating over time. To extend the life of the color, wash your yellow and orange fabrics in cold water and separately from other apparel. When your fabric begins to fade, consider replacing.

Employee Name: _____ Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

