

# THE BETTER WAY



## Translating the New Clothing-Care Labels

**T**here's a new laundry language coming your way. To make care labels more consistent with those in Canada and Mexico, many U.S. clothing manufacturer-

are adopting a system of symbols to tell you how to wash, bleach, dry, and iron your clothes. Explanatory phrases will accompany the icons during an 18-month transition period

that begins in July, but after that, manufacturers are free to drop the phrases. Avoid confusion in your household by posting this chart next to the washing machine:

|                                 |   |  |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----|----|---|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>WASHING SYMBOLS</b><br>      | <p>Do not wash</p> <p>Normal</p> <p>Permanent press/wrinkle resistant</p> <p>Gentle/delicate</p> <p>Hand wash</p> <p>Do not wring</p>   | <b>Maximum Water Temperature</b><br><table border="1"> <tr> <td>•••</td> <td>••</td> <td>•</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hot</td> <td>Warm</td> <td>Cold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50°C</td> <td>40°C</td> <td>30°C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>120°F</td> <td>105°F</td> <td>85°F</td> </tr> </table> | ••• | •• | • | Hot | Warm | Cold | 50°C | 40°C | 30°C | 120°F | 105°F | 85°F |
| •••                             | ••  | •  |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| Hot                             | Warm  | Cold   |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| 50°C                            | 40°C  | 30°C   |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| 120°F                           | 105°F   | 85°F   |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| <b>BLEACH SYMBOLS</b><br>       | <p>Do not bleach</p> <p>Any bleach when needed</p> <p>Only nonchlorine bleach when needed</p>   |  |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| <b>DRYING SYMBOLS</b><br>       | <p><b>Tumble Drying</b></p> <p>Do not tumble dry</p> <p>Do not dry (used with do not wash)</p> <p>Normal</p> <p>Permanent press/wrinkle resistant</p> <p>Delicate/gentle</p> <p><b>Heat Setting</b></p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>No heat/air</p> | <p><b>Air Drying</b></p> <p>Line dry/hang to dry</p> <p>Dry flat</p> <p>Drip-dry</p> <p>In the shade</p>   |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| <b>IRONING SYMBOLS</b><br>      | <p>Do not iron</p> <p>High</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>No steam (added to iron)</p>   |  |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |
| <b>DRY-CLEANING SYMBOLS</b><br> | <p>Do not dry-clean</p> <p>Any solvent</p> <p>Perchloroethylene or petroleum solvent<br/>No trichloroethylene</p> <p>Petroleum solvent only</p>   | <p><b>Professional Dry Cleaning</b></p> <p>Reduce moisture</p> <p>No steam finishing</p> <p>Short cycle</p> <p>Low heat</p>  |     |    |   |     |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |

Adapted from Figure 1 of ASTM Standard D5489-96c: Standard Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products.