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AATCC NEWS



Association of Textile, Apparel & Materials Professionals



August 18, 2015



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Laundering Temperature Debate Heats Up

Standard test methods have to balance consistency with practicality. This has become especially challenging for test methods incorporating home laundering. YOUR input is needed to help AATCC strike the right balance.

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AATCC Supports Sustainability Through Material Donation

AATCC is donating rolls of fabric to [The Scrap Exchange](#), a Durham, NC, USA, charitable organization that recycles a variety of materials.

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Top 10 Reasons to have an AATCC Student Chapter at your University

There are many benefits to having an AATCC Student Chapter at your university. Here are just a few

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AATCC Color Management Workshop- Oct 21-22

Hear color experts discuss color principles, lighting, developing a color palette, implementing a digital color program, and much more.

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Textile Trivia

Test your wits against other AATCC members in our Textile Trivia game. Answer correctly by August 31 to be entered for a drawing for an Amazon Gift Card.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[For complete list and updates, visit the AATCC Events page](#)

August 16-19, 2015

AATCC at [Sourcing at Magic](#)

North Hall, Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV, USA

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August 24, 2014

US Manufacturing Innovation Fund
Letter of Intent Deadline

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September 10, 2015

Basics of Sulfur Dyeing Webinar

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September 16-17, 2015

Antibacterial/Odor Conference
Research Triangle Park, NC

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October 1, 2015

Testing Stretch and Recovery – What Do the
Numbers Mean? Webinar

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October 21-22, 2015

Color Management Workshop
AATCC Technical Center, Research Triangle Park, NC

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November 3-5, 2015

AATCC Fall Committee Meetings
Research Triangle Park, NC

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November 12-19, 2015

AATCC at ITMA
Fiera Milano Rho
Milan, Italy
Hall 7 Booth H102

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December 9-10, 2015

Introduction to Textile Testing Workshop
AATCC Technical Center, Research Triangle Park,
NC

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April 19-21, 2016

2016 AATCC International Conference
Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA

[Call for Papers](#)

**If you would like to register for an event please
contact our [Education Department](#).

Local Section Events

October 29, 2015

New England Fall Meeting
Plainville, MA

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Open Enrollment

Textile Fundamentals Web-Based Training

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Online AATCC Test Method Training

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AATCC Recorded Webinars

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Getting White Right

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Proficiency Testing Registration

September 2, 2015

Antibacterial

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Laundrying Temperature Debate Heats Up

By [Diana Wyman](#), AATCC Technical Director

Standard test methods have to balance consistency with practicality. This has become especially challenging for test methods incorporating home laundering. YOUR input is needed to help AATCC strike the right balance.

The Trouble with Washing Machines



Most lab tests require specialized apparatus. Companies that produce lab equipment certify that their models meet the parameters and tolerances specified in the relevant test method. But home laundering is different. AATCC laundering methods call for a consumer washing machine rather than a specialized lab washer. (ISO laundering methods do require a specific lab model.) This has advantages—consumer washers are much less expensive than lab models and may more closely replicate “real world” laundering. It also has disadvantages. The biggest challenge is the fact that consumer washers change constantly.

Lab equipment is designed specifically to perform a particular test method or a set of methods. Changes are rare since standard test methods are carefully considered before initial publication. Frequent changes to the basic parameters can cause confusion and nullify comparison with historic data.

Consumer washing machines are designed for consumers. Changes may be triggered by customer preferences, water or energy regulations, improved technology, or simply a need to offer something “new” to the market. These changes have become more significant, and more frequent, in recent years. Parameters such as water level and spin speed have been affected, but the area of greatest concern has been the changes to wash water temperature.

So, what does this mean for AATCC laundering test methods?

Unfortunately, there is no easy answer.

Option 1: Maintain the Status Quo



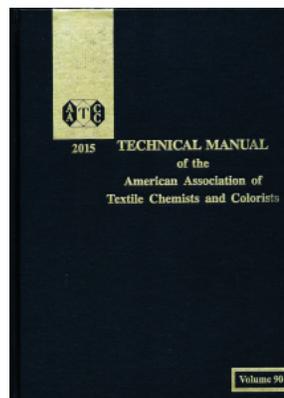
One option is to make no changes to the laundering conditions in the test methods. This maintains the "standard" aspect of each method. Results from one year should be comparable to those from any other. The critical differences published in the precision and bias section remain valid since they were also developed using the same conditions.

But... (there's always a catch), it is nearly impossible to find a washing machine that meets the original parameters specified in the test methods. Specific to wash temperature, the washing machines currently available for purchase use much cooler temperatures than those specified in the AATCC test methods. Even with an external temperature control, it may be difficult to reach the highest temperature (60°C/140°F). Perhaps even more critically, the traditional top load washing machine platform is no longer being produced for the North American market. Users wishing to meet the original machine parameters will need to refurbish old machines or commission custom ones.

The fact that "old" temperatures are no longer representative of what most consumers experience in their homes should be considered, but it is not unusual for lab tests to be different (often more severe) from real world experience. Lab tests are a relative measure of some attribute under controlled conditions, not an exact prediction of performance in consumer use—but that's another article.

Option 2: Aim for a Moving Target

The other end of the spectrum is to update the methods to match current washing machine technology. Obviously, this simplifies the acquisition of suitable machines. The market would dictate the method. This option also offers the advantage of keeping the test closer to what consumers experience at home. While there is no doubt that consumer washing machines will continue to change every year, the AATCC Wash Cycle program will help maintain some continuity (see www.aatcc.org/test/washers/#AATCCWashCycle for more information).



Of course, this solution has drawbacks as well. As discussed above, one of the key features of a standard test method is that it is "standard." It is done the same way every time, in every lab, by every technician. AATCC has no control over when or how consumer washers change, so the test method would also become difficult to control. Brands and retailers may need to adjust pass/fail ratings to accommodate changing test conditions. Many other organizations also have specifications and methods that reference AATCC methods. Labs with large banks of washing machines may have some that meet the latest parameter specifications, but will undoubtedly have some matching a variety of older versions. Labs with fewer machines will probably not replace them every time the method is revised. If a machine lasts for many years, the lab will need to cite an older or modified version of the method.

Option 3: Require a Lab Instrument



From a theoretical perspective, this may sound like the best of both worlds. The test methods can remain unchanged and the equipment to properly perform those methods will remain available.

Unfortunately, no laboratory washer meeting the parameters outlined in the AATCC *Technical Manual* currently exists. Developing one would take time and the cost would be significantly more than for consumer models.

Other Considerations

There may also be hybrid solutions that combine pieces of the various options described above. For any option, there will be

additional challenges to updating and approving appropriate sections of the AATCC *Technical Manual* and communicating the changes to the industry.

Next Steps

If you have an opinion on the best way to handle laundering test conditions, *please* join the conversation.

- Visit <http://doodle.com/2ichct7pwp5dfg> by August 31 to select your preferred time for a conference call to discuss the issues
- UPDATE: Conference Call scheduled Friday, September 18, 11 AM EDT. Email [Diana Wyman](#) for call-in number.
- Email thoughts to AATCC Technical Director [Diana Wyman](#)
- Comment on the AATCC [LinkedIn Group](#) page
- Attend the [AATCC Fall Committee Meetings](#) November 3-5

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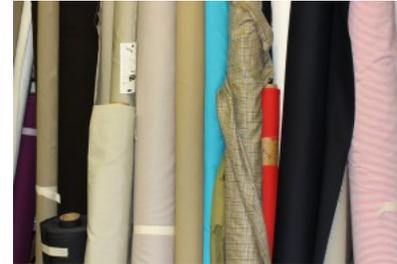
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AATCC Supports Sustainability Through Material Donation

AATCC is donating rolls of fabric to [The Scrap Exchange](#), a Durham, NC, USA, charitable organization that recycles a variety of materials. According to AATCC Technical Associate Garry Atkinson, the rolls of fabric are excess inventory from the [AATCC Proficiency Testing Program](#). This program provides testing labs with a way to verify their testing performance in areas including Fiber Identification, Water Resistance/Repellency, Colorfastness, and more.



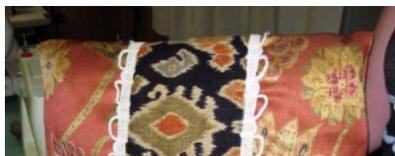
"For these programs, we source fabrics from suppliers, prepare them, and send them to our participants to test the fabrics using AATCC test methods," notes Atkinson. "Over the years, we have accumulated a large amount of extra yardage of these fabrics for our historical records. Since we have gathered the necessary amount for our records, we found that we had more than 20 excess rolls of fabric that we wanted to donate to a local nonprofit."

The Scrap Exchange sells items that are donated to them in their local store to fund outreach programs that they offer the local community. "Our mission is all about promoting creativity and environmental awareness through community and reuse," says Cappye Mott, Volunteer and Collections Dispatch Administrator for The Scrap Exchange. "We host many different sewing classes at The Scrap Exchange. Anytime we host a class, we use the material from the store. Classes range from basic to intermediate sewing, quilting, making tote bags, repairing mending clothes, cloth books/journals, making pillows, creating mixed media collage, and making curtains and drapes," she says. She adds that they also use the donated materials they receive at the community outreach events. "Our creative reuse arts center contains a retail store, an Artist Marketplace, an art gallery, a Design Center to host classes, a Make and Take room for open studio art-making, interactive art installations, and much more."

Photo courtesy of The Scrap Exchange



Photo courtesy of The Scrap Exchange



Rather than go to the local landfill, the excess fabric from AATCC's Proficiency Programs will go to this reuse and recycling center for the benefit of the local artistic and creative community.



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Top 10 Reasons to have an AATCC Student Chapter at your University



There are many benefits to having an AATCC Student Chapter at your university. Here are just a few:

1. Meet other students at your university with similar degrees and interests



2. Develop your leadership skills by planning, organizing, and attending AATCC Student Chapter events



3. Network with local textile professionals at [Local Section](#) meetings

4. Enhance your resume





5. Some AATCC Scholarships ONLY offered to students attending schools with Student Chapters
 - o [Metro Scholarship](#)
 - o [West Region Scholarship](#)
 - o [Corporate Members Scholarship](#)



6. [Join AATCC](#) as a student and become part of a professional association

7. Get recognized as our [AATCC Student Chapter](#) recipient or our [Outstanding College Graduate of the Year](#)



8. Post your resume for AATCC Corporate members, find a job on our [Textile Jobsite](#), and find an [Internship](#)

9. Gain out of classroom experiences



10. Make your mark and create AATCC Student Chapter traditions

Check our [website](#) to see if your university already has a student chapter. No student chapter at your school yet? Contact [Manisha Patel](#) or [Maria Thiry](#) to find out how to start a student chapter today!