



Content Vocabulary Worksheet Key: Laundry 101

Note: the terms below are explained as they relate to textiles and the laundry process.

anti-redisposition agents	The substances in laundry detergent that prevents soil from being reattached on textiles as they are washing
AOB; activated-oxygen bleach	Bleach that removes stains, improves textile whiteness and brightness, and is suitable for colorfast fabrics
ASTM; American Society for Testing & Materials	United States standards organization that publishes voluntary labeling symbols that indicate how to care for a textile
care labels	Instructions for laundering or maintenance, they may include ASTM symbols
Care Label Rule	Requires manufacturers to attach care instructions to textiles; enforced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
care symbols	Pictograms that indicate the manufacturer's suggestions for garment care
detergent	A surfactant or mixture of surfactants made from chemical compounds that increases the ability of water to remove soil from textiles
care symbols	Pictograms that indicate the manufacturer's suggestions for garment care
disinfectant	A germicide that destroys bacteria and other germs like viruses
Energy Star	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency certification that a product has met high levels of energy efficiency
enzymes	In laundry application, enzymes help break down stains, smooth the surface of cotton fabric, and provide color protection for textiles

fabric softeners	Reduces static electricity and wrinkling, and makes the fabric feel smooth
foam regulators	Inhibits suds, particularly necessary in front loading washers
HE; high efficiency	Washers designed to use less water and less energy than the traditional washer
hygiene	A series of laundry steps that control the microbes that cause illness and produce odor
microbial flora	The population of microorganisms that inhabit the body on the skin, in mucus and bodily secretions; they are found on soiled textiles
microorganisms	Bacteria, protozoa, and fungi commonly found in laundry, and are potentially eliminated by proper laundering
pretreatment	Using substances, such as chemical products, to solve common laundry problems like stains
Sinner's circle	An standard used in the cleaning industry that states there are four factors that work together for optimal cleaning: time, temperature, mechanical action, and chemistry
surfactants	Cleaning agents that loosen soils and keep them suspended in wash water