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Stain Protection in Performance Apparel: Striking a Balance Between Functionality and Sustainability

https://marketpublishers.com/r/S1F93613212EN.html
Date: July 2017
Pages: 42
Price: US$ 750.00 (Single User License)
ID: S1F93613212EN

Abstracts

Stain protection is a key functional feature of performance apparel—especially medical clothing and industrial workwear where it is important to prevent spills which could potentially cause harm. However, stain resistance is also in demand for everyday wear. Stain repellent treatments minimise the need to launder and dry clean garments, and a combination of stain resistance, wrinkle resistance and anti-odour treatments helps to keep clothes looking fresher for longer. But several stain repellent treatments are based on fluorocarbons—whose manufacture can result in the generation of chemicals which may have adverse effects on the environment and on human health. This has prompted several companies to invest in innovation and the development of treatments which are environmentally sustainable without compromising on performance. This report provides a wealth of information on stain repellent treatments, applications of stain repellent clothing, and developments in stain protection technologies. The report also features information on: the market for stain repellent clothing; the properties of stain repellent materials; the benefits of stain protection; methods used to achieve stain repellency; materials and technologies used for stain protection in textiles; innovations in stain repellent clothing; and the outlook for the stain protection market.

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