

TECHNICAL TUESDAYS

TOPIC: Stone Wash for Denims & Its alternatives

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What is Pumice stone wash in denims?

Denim Washing Done along with Pumice stone called Stonewash. In stonewashing the worn out look is given purposely when the fabric is washed along with pumice stones.

The stones and denim are spinned together in the large industrial washing machines. The longer they are spinned together the color of the fabric would get lighter with better contrasts.

Thereafter the fabric undergoes various other processes of rinsing, softening and finally tumbles drying. These stonewashed fabrics are used different uses like- garments making as well as for upholstery purpose.

Disadvantages of pumice stone usage:

Stones could cause wear and tear of the fabric

Creates the problem of environmental disposition of waste of the grit produced by the stones.

High labor costs are to be beared as the pumice stones and its dust particles produced are to be physically removed from the pockets of the garments and machines by the labors.

Denim is required to be washed several times in order to completely get rid of the stones. The process of stonewashing also harms the big expensive laundry machines.

Alternate methods for stonewashing:

To minimize such drawbacks, stonewashing of denim is carried out with the aid of enzymes. The method of giving the denim a stonewash look by use of enzymes like cellulase is known as- 'Enzymatic washing'. Here cellulases are used to provide that distressed worn out look to the denim fabric.



Advantages of Cellulase Method:

Cellulase is environment friendly in comparison to pumice stones. It reduces the percentage of damage caused to denim caused on it by tough effect of stones on them.

As there is huge demand of garments with distressed jeans look, stonewashing with enzymes is being used increasingly. It is also known as bio-stonewashing.

Enzymatic treatment has become another substitute for kilograms of stones, also the jeans stonewashed by this method has more longevity. It ensures the same result with minimum amount of water, waste, time, volume and damage to machines.

As jeans are made up of cellulosic fibers, the use of cellulase enzyme is successful in giving the stonewash look.

This enzyme breaks down the surface cellulose fibers and removes them without causing harm to the jeans. Better finishing and look is achieved even with indigo dyed denim.

The production of stonewashed jeans has increased. Variations in finishes can be achieved by bio-stonewashing. Better fading of jeans could be achieved without causing harm to the fabric.

Wishing you a happy week ahead!

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