

BURN TEST IDENTIFICATION

Before

In flame

After

Odour

Smoke

Residue

Also...

Burns on touching flame

Melts away from flame

Melts and turns black before touching flame

Melts and ignites before touching flame

Melts before touching flame

Shrinks from flame and melts

Shrinks from flame

Burns!

Melts & Burns!

Melts & Burns!

Melts & Burns!

Melts & Burns! Slowly

Ignites and burns rapidly

Slow burning, may extinguish

Ignites briefly and melts

Burns readily

Burns slowly, won't ignite

Has afterglow

No afterglow

Sizzling

Spluttering

Drips

Spluttering

Drips

Burning paper

Burning feathers/hair

Vinegar

Burning meat/tumeric

Celery

Faint, sweet

Sharp, sweet

Grey smoke

Grey smoke

Black smoke

Black smoke

Black smoke

Soft, grey

Puffy, black, crushable

Hard, black, irregular

Hard, grey, round

Hard, black, round

Hard, black, irregular

COTTON

VISCOSE CUPRA-

WOOL AZLON

SILK CASEIN

ACETATE TRIACETATE

ACRYLIC

NYLON

POLYESTER

MODACRYLIC

PVC

Creases easily

Stiff when wet

Smells of wet animal when wet

Dissolves in nail varnish remover

Crease resistant, dries quickly

You'll need to cut a small piece of fabric from the seam allowance your garment. You could pick the piece apart, separating it into warp and weft fibres, which may aid you in identifying a blended fabric.

Conduct the burn test over the sink or a metal dish. Preferably, use a lighter (matches will produce a smell that could mask the fibre smell) and use tweezers to safely hold the fibres.

TOP TIP: If possible, video the test on your phone so you can review if necessary.

First see what happens to the fibres when you move them close to the flame. Second, into the flame - do they burn easily? Third, what happens when you remove them from the flame? Did they ignite and continue to burn/melt? Also note the smell, the colour of the smoke and the consistency of the residue that is left at the end.

You may not be able to get a definitive result. The fibres themselves may be blended, or the fabric may have a finishing treatment, which will skew the results.

Check out YouTube for videos of burn tests.

FINISHING TREATMENTS

Anti-wrinkle

Korotron; Sharp-Shape; Sta-Prest; Vanopress.

Wrinkle-free, holds pleats.

Anti-stain

Visa; X-It; Fybrite; Dual-Action Scotchguard; Come-Clean; Zepel.

Repels stains or make stains easier to remove in wash.

Anti-shrink

Sanforized; Rigmel; Pak-Nit; Penn-Set; Stable-Knit; Dylanize; Wurlan.

Prevents shrinking in the wash