



Yes! Detergent Matters.

There is no doubt that different laundry detergents produce different results in terms of colorfastness, dimensional change, and other important quality characteristics. To compare fabric performance, all your samples must be laundered with the same detergent.

But how do you know if all your detergent is *really* the same?

Commercial detergent manufacturers are constantly adjusting their formulas—using new colors and scents, changing concentrations, and including softeners or other additives. The detergent you buy today may not be available tomorrow.

What's more, even if the label doesn't say "new and improved," detergents may vary from lot to lot if they are manufactured in different plants or at different times. These variations may not impact the general effectiveness for home laundering, but could easily produce variations in quality control test results.

- Is the detergent used in China the same as the detergent used in the US?
- Is it the same as the detergent you used to test last year's styles?

If you use an AATCC Standard Reference Detergent, then YES, it is.



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Does the Detergent Matter?



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Standard detergent and
quality control testing

How the right detergent can help you make the
right decisions about your textile products.

Why Standard Reference Detergent?



Consumers don't use standard detergents. Why should I test with one?

Consumers use many different detergents. AATCC standard detergents were initially formulated to represent an *average* of the commercially-available detergents. Testing with a single, average detergent is more practical than testing separately with every available brand and formulation.



Every lot is the same.

Each type of AATCC detergent is made in a single facility, using the same quality control practices for each lot. The formulas remain consistent from year to year so you always know what to expect.

AATCC detergent **MUST** be used for US flammability testing.

Clothing sold in the US must meet the newly-revised 16 CFR Part 1610, *Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles*. The standard specifies AATCC powdered detergent for laundering samples prior to burning. No other detergent is approved for this purpose.

Test methods are written for standard detergent.

Dimensional change, appearance, colorfastness and other quality control test methods call for specified measurements of a specific detergent. The same amount of a different detergent may not be the correct dosage. AATCC detergent is used in AATCC test methods, ISO standards, and various other government and industry protocols.

Every scoop is the same.

Heavier components won't settle out of AATCC's powdered detergent because it is 90% spray-dried. Dissolving the ingredients into a slurry and then spray-drying, produces a more homogeneous product.

Standard Detergent is Standard Practice.

Hundreds of manufacturers, research institutions, and independent labs currently use AATCC Standard Detergent. Each year, AATCC sells more than **130,000 pounds** of standard powdered detergent and **250 gallons** of standard liquid detergent to more than **35 countries**.