



ArmorCo
4710 State Rd. • Ashtabula, OH 44004
1-440-992-2331
armorco.com

KEVLAR CLEANING

When a ballistic projectile is stopped by personal body armor, the individual receives a hammer-like” blow as the energy is dissipated. History has shown that superficial bruises and lacerations usually occur. Additionally, the potential exists for hidden injuries to internal organs. Therefore, Dupont recommends that persons involved in such incidents seek prompt appropriate medical examination to ensure against possible internal damage even though they may not experience any pain as a result of the incident. Additionally, live testing or demonstration of soft body armor should never be conducted.

The following information is designed to provide the owner of soft body armor with some general guidance as to the proper method of laundering and cleaning the panels of KEVLAR, which in some garments can be removed and washed as noted below. Because of the variety of soft body armor designs, owners should refer to and follow the manufacturer’s recommendations on the proper care and maintenance of their specific style of ballistic garment.

Laundering

Soft body armor of KEVLAR should not be machine washed or dried, since it has been demonstrated that damage to the fiber can occur from the laundry equipment itself, ultimately affecting its ballistic performance. Therefore, a gentle hand wash with mild detergent in cold water and indoor drip drying are recommended. Commercial laundries also must be avoided, since the detergents they use may be much harsher than home detergents and can reduce the ballistic-resistant characteristics of fabrics of KEVLAR.

Laundering Water Repellents

While soft body armor containing water-repellent-treated fabrics of KEVLAR can be hand washed, they must be thoroughly rinsed. The fabrics will retain a high level of their original water-repellent treatment, but without proper rinsing, they can accumulate a film of residual soap that absorbs water, and ballistic resistance is reduced. For this reason, thorough rinsing after hand washing is strongly recommended.

Laundry Additives

Under no circumstances are bleach or any products containing bleach to be used in the laundering of soft body armor of KEVLAR. Bleach, even when highly diluted, will adversely affect the ballistic resistance level of the garment. Pee-soak products, fabric softeners, and stain removers containing no bleach should have no effect on the ballistic resistance of fabrics of KEVLAR.

Dry Cleaning

Perchloroethylene, a commonly used dry-cleaning solvent, has been demonstrated to have no adverse effect on the ballistic resistance of fabrics of KEVLAR. However, because of the variety of dry-cleaning solvents in use today, most soft body armor manufacturers recommend that dry cleaning be avoided.

Sunlight Drying

KEVLAR is susceptible to ultraviolet (UV) degradation, as are many other man-made textile fibers. However, during normal use, a cotton or polyester/cotton carrier protects KEVLAR from UV exposure. Ballistic fabrics of KEVLAR should never be dried outdoors.

Sewing and Repairing

If any part of the vest experiences non-ballistic damage, it should be returned to the manufacturer for repair or replacement. DuPont has not seen data that would indicate that sewing through vest panels by knowledgeable vest manufacturers' impairs the ballistic properties of fabrics of KEVLAR. Multiple layers of fabric in some types of soft armor are stitched together. If the sewing thread deteriorates, or unraveling of the fabric occurs, the vest must be returned to the manufacturer for repair or replacement. Do not attempt to repair the garment yourself.

What if My Vest is Shot?

Replace your vest immediately if this occurs.