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## Guidance to wash and disinfect PPE garments made with DuPont™ Nomex® and DuPont™ Kevlar®

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the recommended method to remove contamination from garments is to wash at a temperature between 60-90°C with laundry detergent. People manipulating those soiled garments should wear adequate PPE to prevent the spread of the virus.

"All individuals dealing with soiled bedding, towels, and clothes from patients with COVID-19 infection should wear appropriate PPE before touching soiled items, including heavy duty gloves, a mask, eye protection (goggles or a face shield), a long-sleeved gown, an apron if the gown is not fluid resistant, and boots or closed shoes. They should perform hand hygiene after exposure to blood or body fluids and after removing PPE. Soiled linen should be placed in clearly labelled, leak-proof bags or containers, after carefully removing any solid excrement and putting it in a covered bucket to be disposed of in a toilet or latrine. Machine washing with warm water at 60-90°C (140-194°F) with laundry detergent is recommended. The laundry can then be dried according to routine procedures."

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>

Specific washing and drying procedures to remove contamination from garments made from Nomex® and/or Kevlar® aramid fibers are included in the Nomex® Aramid Fiber Laundering Guide. Nomex® and Kevlar® aramid fibers are inherently flame resistant, meaning the flame resistance is a permanent or inseparable attribute of the fibers that cannot be washed out or worn away. Additionally, studies have shown that the procedures recommended in this guide are effective in cleaning garments made of Nomex® while minimizing the impact on colorfastness and wear life. You may also consider the entire composition of the garments before washing.

While we do not recommend it, if choosing to treat the surface of your FR/AR garments with disinfectant, please refer to the Nomex® chemical compatibility data. Additionally, it is important to ensure the suitability of any surface treatment before applying and wearing in the field, as it may impact the thermal properties, especially as it may contain flammable liquids, such as alcohol. Finally, please do not use chlorine-containing bleach, as the mechanical properties may be diminished thus reducing the life of the garment.

This statement is based on our current level of knowledge and covers commercial products as supplied by DuPont at the date of issue.

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