

Washing of Drafting Aprons

– Recommendation & Procedure

Why is washing of aprons recommended?

During continuous working, drafting aprons get contaminated with various agents present in fibers processed and spinning department including fibre born elements (honey dew etc), spin finish in case of manmade fibres, micro dust, loose fibre fluff & moisture. The contamination of aprons can result in:

1. Discoloration on outer layer of aprons due to deposit of wax, dirt & dust etc.
2. Blackening on inner layers of aprons especially in bottom position.

The above factors affect the surface finish and inner layer frictional values of the aprons and can disturb the smooth movement of aprons and fiber transfer from the middle roller nip to front roller nip, resulting in:

- Deterioration of yarn quality
- Abnormal abrasion and wear out on apron outer surface
- Higher apron breakage

Washing of aprons at regular interval prevents these negative impacts increasing the apron life and ensuring consistent yarn quality through-out.

Procedure for apron washing – Machine washing recommended

1. Drafting aprons should be washed once in 6 months or 8 months depending upon the type of fiber used and department condition.
2. Top & Bottom aprons must be completely removed from the machine at the time of general cleaning.
3. First soak the aprons in Luke warm water inside a washing machine for approx.10 Minutes with constant stirring.
4. Drain the water completely and refill the washing machine chamber with mild detergent solution and allow the aprons to soak inside the chamber for 15 – 20 Minutes with constantly stir. Detergent solution can be prepared by adding Mild detergent (must be bleach free) in Luke warm water at 1 teaspoon detergent per 10 Litres of water.
5. Drain the detergent solution completely form the chamber and refill with plain Luke warm water and constantly stir / agitate it in such a way that the aprons are cleaned of the remaining alkaline compounds completely!
6. Drain the water and take out the aprons and dry it by spreading it under a fan inside the room. Depending on room temperature it takes 3 – 4 hrs for complete drying.

Note that aprons should not be dried under direct sunlight as it might accelerate ageing of rubber compound resulting in premature cracks on apron surface!