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Quality Control in Fabric Pre-Treatment: Managing Shrinkage and Color Bleed



ഫെസിലിറ്റേറ്റർമാർ 2

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During this session, all team members gathered to collectively select a fresh batch of cotton fabrics recently acquired from a new supplier offering higher-grade materials. Working under the assumption that premium quality would prevent dye transfer, we soaked all the colorful fabric pieces together in a single washing container for initial pre-treatment. However, during the soaking and washing process, we observed significant color bleeding across multiple pieces, alongside visible fabric shrinkage as the cotton fibers reacted to the water.

To accurately assess the structural and aesthetic impact of the wash, we carefully dried and ironed each fabric panel. Ironing allowed us to closely examine the extent of color fading, cross-staining, and dimensional shrinkage across the batch. This experience provided a crucial quality control lesson: even high-quality cotton fabrics naturally release excess surface dye and contract during their first wash. We recognized that incorporating unchecked, color-releasing fabrics into finished bag production would cause dyes to bleed onto adjacent panels, ultimately ruining the final

products. Consequently, we established a mandatory quality control protocol requiring all newly purchased cotton fabrics to be washed individually and thoroughly inspected before being approved for bag construction.

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- Fabric pre-treatment quality control protocol

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Established a standardized pre-washing, drying, and inspection procedure across the stitching unit to protect product quality. Observed: The team successfully identified colour bleeding and dimensional shrinkage during initial testing, leading to the immediate implementation of an individual pre-washing rule for all future fabric stock.

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What worked: Ironing the thoroughly dried fabric panels enabled precise measurement of shrinkage levels and allowed for a clear assessment of overall colour retention. What was difficult: Soaking multiple multi-coloured cotton fabrics together in a single tub caused dye bleeding and cross-staining between different pieces. Changes for next time: Wash every newly purchased cotton fabric panel individually during initial pre-treatment to prevent cross-contamination and isolate dye release before cutting.

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