

# TABS

TEXTILE ANALYSIS BULLETIN SERVICE

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## Faded Areas On Shirt Collars

### What Is The Problem?

This problem occurs with the sudden appearance of local discolored areas on or near the neck edge of shirts or blouses.

### What Does It Look Like?

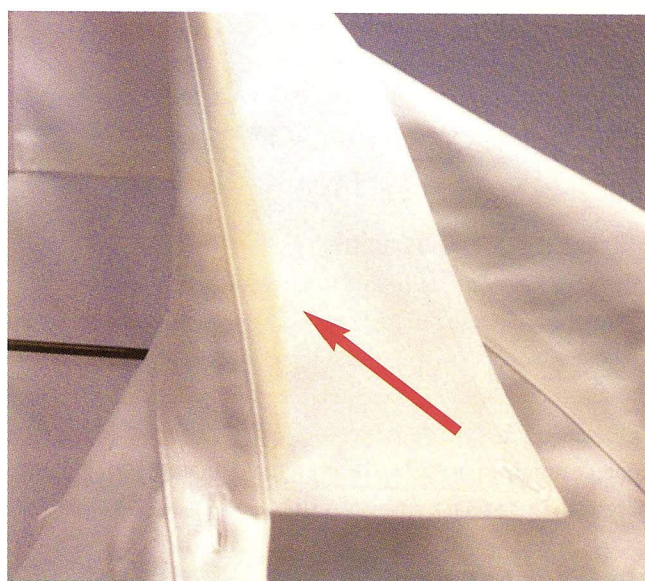
In most cases, the color loss appears along the neck “fold” of the collar. This is sometimes called the collar break area. The discoloration can be all around the collar or just in local areas, such as in only the right and/or left side neck fronts. Depending on the color of the fabric, the color loss or color change usually shows up as yellow, pink, cream, or orange. However, some fabric colors may change to other shades.

### What Caused It?

Chemical testing reveals that the dyes on some fabrics are affected from the prolonged effects of solutions containing either alcohol or mild oxidizing agents (bleaches) or both. Some common solutions containing alcohol include; perfume, cologne, after shave lotions, skin fresheners, hair gels or sprays, or plain rubbing alcohol. Oxidizing bleaches can be found in many tanners or other skin preparations, and medicines, such as medicinal lotions and salves, acne creams, depilatories, as well as many other skin treatments.

### Can It Be Prevented?

In many cases, the dye damage is not immediately visible because of perspiration, body oils, and neck dirt that produce a stain. Furthermore, the damaging solution itself may contain some color or oil that masks the damage. Therefore, the dye fading may not actually appear until after the stain is removed



This shirt lost color along and near the neck fold because of some type of skin preparation used by the shirt owner.

in later drycleaning or washing. Since this discoloration originates during wear, only the owner of the shirt could have prevented this fading. However, after fabric contact, there is no prevention.

### Who Is Responsible?

Only the consumer can be held responsible, since the solution that causes the dye disturbance originally contacted the garment during wear.

### Is There A Remedy?

There is no method to reverse this type of loss of color.

