



# TEXPORT® CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Correct washing and maintenance of your protective clothing

# CARE OF TEXPORT® FIREFIGHTER TURNOUT GEAR

We are delighted that you have decided to purchase TEXPORT® high-quality firefighter turnout gear certified according to EN 469. This means you have chosen the highest possible heat and moisture protection, combined with the best wearing comfort. To meet your expectations, we use the highest quality raw materials currently available in our turnout gear.



Proper care and maintenance are essential for the longest possible wear of our TEXPORT® turnout gear.

To extend the wear of our TEXPORT® turnout gear, proper care and maintenance are essential. Therefore, please follow our care recommendations and adjust your washing programme accordingly or pass this information on to your external cleaning company. The protective clothing is made from flame-retardant material, e.g. NOMEX®, PBI® and Gore-Tex®. Flame retardancy is an inherent property of the fibres or materials, which is why they do not lose their good flame resistance.

However, the mechanical properties can be impaired and even severely damaged by improper treatment when cleaning.

Before you generally start cleaning the new TEXPORT® firefighter turnout gear, you must perform multiple (at least 5) test cleanings or have them carried out by the commissioned external cleaning company. Only when the cleaning procedure ensures a cleaning result acceptable to you can systematic cleaning begin.

Firefighter protective clothing must be washed separately to prevent foreign material (e.g. lint) from settling on the surface. To prevent cross-contamination with e.g. ,service clothing‘ or ,sports clothing‘, turnout gear must only be cleaned in a separate washing machine designated for this purpose.

Soiled clothing must be cleaned immediately after use, as longer contamination can lead to deteriorated washing results.

## **Keep the clothing clean:**

Oil, grease and dust deposits on the surface can burn and impair the performance of the protective clothing.

## **Body fluids:**

Turnout gear contaminated with body fluids must not be cleaned in the conventional washing process. It should be stored separately (polybag) and cleaned in a separate cycle with a suitable washing process.

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## ➤ pH VALUE OF THE WASH LIQUOR

Concentrated acids (e.g. acetic acid) or alkalis, as well as strong oxidising agents (like hypochlorite and other chlorine-based bleaches) impair the mechanical properties of the turnout gear. Avoid exposing the garment to very low (< 4) or very high (> 10) pH values during care. The wash liquor should have a **pH value of 8–9**.

## ➤ PREPARATION FOR WASHING (applies to every wash or cleaning)

Before washing, remove back plates/name labels, if present, as well as various fittings, e.g. carabiners, safety belts, etc.

The hook side of Velcro straps can roughen fabric surfaces and thereby drastically change the appearance of the material (pilling). Velcro fasteners and metallic hooks/carabiners or buttons must be closed or protected before the garment is placed in the washing machine.

## ➤ WASHING MACHINE

Due to possible cross-contamination, the turnout gear must only be washed in designated washing machines. Do not use household appliances. Washing machines with a loading capacity  $\geq 15$  kg are recommended. Do not overload the washing machine, as this leads to high mechanical stress and can result in roughened surfaces and wrinkling.

Load the machine with a maximum of half the specified capacity and choose a programme that guarantees a higher water level.



## ➤ WASHING CYCLES - TEMPERATURE

For heavy soiling, choose a washing process with pre-wash and main wash. Pre-wash at 50–60°C with a water ratio (laundry weight: water volume) between 1 : 5 and 1 : 6, assuming a maximum load of 50%. Main wash at 60°C with a water ratio of 1 : 4.





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## ➤ BLEACH

Bleach (especially chlorine bleach) can damage the dye, textile fibres and reflective stripes.

## ➤ PRE-WASH

Heavily soiled clothing or garments soaked in flammable materials may need one or more of these additional treatments:

- Rinse and additional pre-wash with appropriate detergents/degreasers
- Repeated pre-washes

## ➤ DETERGENT

Use mild detergent **without optical brighteners, bleach and integrated fabric softeners**. Do not use **concentrated detergents**.



## ➤ RINSING, CONDITIONING, SPINNING and DRYING

Thoroughly rinse all garments after washing to remove possible (alkaline) detergent residues.

Garments with a membrane should not be spun, or only lightly spun if necessary, then dried in the tumble dryer (with gentle drying) at drum outlet temperatures of maximum 60°C.

The residual moisture of the parts should be between 5% and 10%. **Tumble drying or cabinet drying is necessary to activate the existing or newly applied impregnation.**

Do not dry the turnout gear on a clothesline in direct sunlight, as this can damage the material. All TEXPORT® turnout gear comes with a label that provides information on the correct washing procedures. Please adhere to these guidelines.

## ➤ RE-IMPREGNATION for fabrics with standard finish

In accordance with the standard requirements of EN 469, the outer fabric of TEXPORT® turnout gear is generally equipped with a chemical-resistant impregnation.

This is designed for 5 washes at 60°C. The impregnation of the outer fabric is affected by mechanical stress, frequency of wear and weather, and must therefore be visually inspected after every washing process. The TEXPORT® turnout gear with standard finish must be impregnated after every 6th wash at the latest.

For the necessary re-impregnation, an impregnation in the last rinse bath with subsequent drying/heat treatment in the tumble dryer or drying cabinet is required. At the end of the drying time, increase the drum outlet temperature to 80°C for 5 minutes. The residual moisture of the parts should be between 5% and 10%. This heat treatment should be carried out after each wash in the tumble dryer or drying cabinet.

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If the minimum requirements in EN 469 for „Chemical run-off rate and penetration – EN ISO 6530“ are not met, the clothing is no longer to be released for use.

## ➤ RE-IMPREGNATION for fabric with permanent finish

TEXPORT® also processes outer fabrics for turnout gear that are equipped with a long-lasting impregnation. Depending on the outer fabric, re-impregnation must be done after 30 or 40 washes at the latest (please refer to the care label).

Heat treatment should be carried out after every wash in the tumble dryer or drying cabinet. At the end of the drying time, increase the drum outlet or cabinet temperature to 80°C for 5 minutes. The residual moisture of the parts should be between 5% and 10%.

For subsequent washing cycles, the re-impregnation must be done as for fabrics with standard finish (impregnation after every 6th wash – see „Re-impregnation for fabric with standard finish“).



If the minimum requirements specified in EN 469 for „Chemical run-off rate and penetration – EN ISO 6530“ are not met, the turnout gear must no longer be released for use.

## ➤ HAND WASHING

Do not hand wash.

Please also refer to our general user information.

The information in our care instructions is intended as advice. No liability claims can be made on the basis of these recommendations.



**TEXPORT® GmbH**  
Franz Sauer Str. 30  
5020 Salzburg, Austria

Tel.: +43 (0)662 423 244  
Fax: +43 (0)662 423 243  
office@texport.at  
texport.at

