

COLOURFASTNESS TESTING

LIGHTFASTNESS – Rating using Blue Scales

- Colourfastness to light testing exposes test pieces to either a Xenon Arc lamp (AS 2001.4.B02) or an MBTF lamp (AS 2001.4.21). After a period of time, the test pieces are assessed against a set of rating swatches (standard blue scales) that are exposed at the same time.
- Rating is on a scale of 1-8, where 8 = No change and 1 = severe colour change.
- Sample colours can fade, deepen, change hue (e.g. from blue to red/purple) or take on a yellow tinge.



COLOURFASTNESS – Rating using Grey Scales

- Colourfastness testing exposes test pieces and standard adjacent fabrics to test solution baths, dependent on the type of test being conducted. After this exposure time the test pieces are dried, cooled and rated against standard grey scales for colour change and staining of adjacent fabrics.
- Rating is on a scale of 1-5, where 5 = No change and 1 = severe colour change or staining.
- Sample colours can fade, deepen, change hue (e.g. from blue to red/purple) or take on a yellow tinge.
- Staining ratings are assigned by the amount of colour change (staining) of the white adjacent fabrics exposed with the test pieces.



PHENOLIC YELLOWING

- Phenolic yellowing is the discolouration of textiles caused by the action of oxides of nitrogen on 'yellowable' phenols in storage or transit. It is not intended to examine other forms of discolouration; i.e. gas fading, migration or fading of optical brighteners or oxidation of fabric lubricants.
- A sealed package of test specimens are sandwiched between impregnated papers and then placed in an incubator for 16 hours. The test pieces are allowed to cool and then immediately the change in colour is then rated against the standard grey scales.
- Rating is on a scale of 1-5, where 5 = No change and 1 = severe colour change.
- Samples can take on a yellow tinge.