

## DEBLINS TIPS ON PILLING

The condition known as "pilling" occurs when the individual fibers break and fiber ends lift away from the thread. The loose ends form into little balls called "pills".

It is not normal, but it does happen occasionally. What causes it can be due to a number of factors, but usually due to improper use or care. We have found that the following can contribute to pilling:

1. The sheet has been laundered with something coarse, such as towels, blue jeans, etc. This abrades the surface of the sheet and weakens the fibers.
2. Laundering or drying the sheet at too high a temperature, and usually overdrying the fabric. This makes the fibers brittle and susceptible to breaking. These sheets often are dried at low temperatures, and never overdried. Fine sateen sheets dry very quickly.
3. Liquid fabric softeners may cause problems. Dryer sheets are okay.
4. The washer or dryer may have a slightly rough area in it. This can be found in older equipment, where items such as blue jeans with their metal studs, or similar articles have damaged the surface of the washer or dryer.
5. "Bleach", "Colour Safe Bleach" and "Bleach for Unbleachables", if it has the word bleach anywhere on the label it will cause pilling. Cheaper laundry soaps such as Sunlight can be hard on the fabric. Woolite is hard on the fabric. It is really formulated for wool. At the moment, we suspect Persil soap may be causing problems. We recommend using pure soaps, such as Ivory and Arm & Hammer.
6. Long toenails, can cause pilling at the bottom of the sheet.
7. One of the worst things is Cotton Polyester Nightwear. Natural fibers such as cotton sateens or silk are much better. Best of all is nothing at all.
8. Some body lotions seem to react badly with the cotton. I suspect that the lotion combined with laundry soap becomes too caustic and damages fibers.

We have found that a customer that pills one sheet, will often pill the replacement, if they don't change the way they use or care for the sheet. One misconception that people do have is that a fine sateen sheet will never wear out, presumably because they are so expensive. This is not the case; in fact, they need more care than typical department store sheets.