

## Garment Treatment Scoring

In attempting to classify garment treatments and their relative impacts, we opened a Pandora's Box. Treatment recipes containing enzymes, chemicals, and additives, varying degrees of water use and water temperature, treatment time, and mechanical distressing can all be combined in an infinite number of ways and intensity levels, and applied to a finished garment. No two combinations are the same. Exact recipes may be closely guarded trade secrets, and are often seen as a wash-house's competitive advantage. All of this complexity, though, adds up to a simple reality: garment treatments amount to additional energy, water, chemistry, and / or potential waste in the manufacturing process. Not typically considered in most industry indexes, we believe garment processes should be assessed because they clearly result in additional environmental impacts.

Working with industry and factory partners, we grouped treatments into four categories and deducted points based on an estimated level of environmental impact.

None	Light Effect/ Softening	Distress	Heavy Distress/garment dye
no garment treatments	basic wash, reduced water wash, silicone wash, "eco ball," enzyme wash/bio polish	bleach, laser, ozone wash, mechanical distress	garment dye, pumice/stone wash, resin garment treatment, enzyme w/ stones, chemical wash w/stones, acid/ chemical wash or spray, potassium permanganate in stone wash, or spray

