



US 20050229327A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Casella et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2005/0229327 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Oct. 20, 2005**

(54) **FABRIC TREATMENT FOR STAIN RELEASE**

(57)

ABSTRACT

(76) Inventors: **Victor M. Casella**, Pleasanton, CA (US); **Thomas Walter Kaaret**, Pleasanton, CA (US); **Scott C. Mills**, Pleasanton, CA (US); **Gregory van Buskirk**, Pleasanton, CA (US); **Malcolm DeLeo**, Pleasanton, CA (US); **Cheryl H. Rodriguez**, Pleasanton, CA (US)

Correspondence Address:
THE CLOROX COMPANY
1221 BROADWAY PO BOX 2351
OAKLAND, CA 94623 (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **10/829,110**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 20, 2004**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **D06M 10/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **8/115.51**

A fabric treatment composition that includes a hydrophobic agent with a melting point or glass transition temperature below 100° C. and optionally, a fluoropolymer, that imparts fabric protection benefits, including improved stain and soil resistance, oil repellency, water repellency, softness, wrinkle and damage resistance, and better handfeel to treated fabrics. Compositions may further include a zeta potential modifier in an amount sufficient to adjust the zeta potential of the composition to be positive and greater, than zero millivolts. The composition can be used as a pretreatment prior to drying or ironing, through soaking or direct spray application, or used prior to or during the drying cycle of an automatic drying machine or clothing refresher machine, or used prior to or in conjunction with an ironing device. The fabric treatment is complete when the fabric treated by contact with the protective composition is then cured by drying and/or heating. The invention further includes a kit providing a means for convenient dispensing of the protective composition to effect treatment and curing of fabric articles.

FABRIC TREATMENT FOR STAIN RELEASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional application filed Apr. 9, 2002, Ser. No. 60/371,452, which is hereby incorporated by reference, and of U.S. patent application filed Jan. 8, 2003, Ser. No. 10/338,350, which is hereby incorporated by reference, and of U.S. patent application filed Mar. 22, 2004, Ser. No. 10/806,850, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a fabric treatment composition for imparting fabric protection benefits, including stain and soil resistance, oil repellency, water repellency, softness, wrinkle and damage resistance, and improved handfeel. The composition can be used as a pretreatment prior to washing, through soaking or direct spray application, or added to a treatment cycle, such as the wash or rinse cycle of an automatic washing machine, or used prior to or during the drying cycle of an automatic drying machine or refresher machine, or used prior to or in conjunction with an ironing device. The fabric treatment is complete when the fabric is cured by drying and/or heating. The invention further includes a kit providing a means for convenient dispensing of the protective composition to effect treatment and curing of fabric articles within the drum of a tumble dryer machine.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Most textile treatment agents for stain release, water repellency and oil repellency currently require industrial baths with high concentrations of chemicals followed by curing at high temperatures (substantially above 100° C.) often in commercial drying ovens. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 6,251,210 to Bullock et al. discloses a dual system consisting of a first treatment with at least 5 weight % fluorochemical textile agent followed by at least one secondary treatment with at least 4 weight % fluorochemical textile agent. The textile agent comprises, in addition to the fluorochemical, a urethane latex, a compatible acrylate latex and a cross-linking resin. The first treatment uses a low solids latex having a glass transition temperature from 10° C. to 35° C. The second treatment is a high solids latex having the consistency of wood glue or wallpaper paste, applied to one side of the fabric, and having a glass transition temperature from -40° C. to -10° C. This combined commercial treatment system is to produce a fabric that is liquid repellent, stain resistant, and is easy to handle.

[0004] U.S. Pat. No. 5,047,065 to Vogel et al. describes the combination of a perfluoroaliphatic group-bearing water/oil repellent agent dispersion, an emulsifiable polyethylene dispersion, and a soft-hand extender based on a modified hydrogen alkyl polysiloxane. The compositions are padded onto fabric at a concentration of 70-150 g/L and then cured at 150° C.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 5,019,281 to Singer et al. describes the combination of a water-soluble C₉-C₂₄ quaternary ammonium salts of alkyl phosphonic acid, a separate C₁₂-C₂₄ quaternary ammonium compound, and a dispersed polyethylene wax. The compositions are padded onto fabric at a

concentration of 30 g/L and then cured at 110° C. U.S. Pat. No. 5,153,046 to Murphy describes the combination of fluorochemical textile antisoilant, lubricant, and combination of cationic and nonionic surfactants. The compositions are intended for commercial application to nylon yarns.

[0006] Water-proofing has traditionally been performed with solvent-based wax and wax-like coating commonly using paraffin wax, chlorinated paraffin waxes, and ethylene/vinyl acetate waxes such as those materials cited in U.S. Pat. No. 4,027,062 to Englebrecht et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 4,833,006 to McKinney et al. It is also possible to make fabrics liquid resistant by using silicone materials commonly known in the art.

[0007] Some technologies have been developed to provide a fabric benefit on direct application or as an ironing aid. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,532,023 to Vogel et al. describes the post-wash use of silicones and film-forming polymer for use on damp or dry clothing to relax wrinkles. The composition is sprayed on the fabric and then ironed or stretched by hand for wrinkle reduction benefit. There is no indication that the composition can be applied in the wash.

[0008] Products that are applied directly on the fabric, for instance by spraying followed by curing with an iron or in a hot dryer at high temperatures, such as above 100° C., suffer several disadvantages. Usually, a thick or uneven coat results, which gives areas of incomplete oil and water repellency and a fabric hand feel that lacks softness. These products can also decrease the porosity of fabric, resulting in uncomfortable conditions for the wearer during use. An additional drawback of direct application products is that they cannot be used on fabrics that are already stained or soiled because they lock in stains and soils.

[0009] Fluoropolymers and hydrophobic agents have previously been suggested for laundry use. U.S. Pat. No. 6,075,003 to Haq et al. disclose the use of fluoropolymers with cationic fabric softeners. U.S. Pat. No. 5,910,557 to Audenaert et al. discloses the use of fluorochemical polyurethane compounds to impart oil and water repellency. These patents do not suggest the additional use of hydrophobic agents with fluoropolymers in the wash for combined oil and water repellency, while maintaining a soft hand. The use of generally less expensive hydrophobic agents, such as wax, allows products whose value is more acceptable to the consumer.

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 6,180,740 to Fitzgerald describes an aqueous emulsion containing a fluorocopolymer composition that provides oil- and water-repellency to textiles. The composition is apparently stable under conditions of high alkalinity, high anionic concentration, and/or high shear conditions. The stability of emulsions having either positive or negative zeta potentials is said to be achieved by controlling the relative amounts of cationic and anionic surfactants. Emulsions with a positive zeta potential are desirable for applications where the emulsion is used to apply a coating to textile fabrics, which are typically anionic in character. Fabric treatment requires drying at relative high temperatures of between 110° C. to 190° C.

[0011] U.S. Pat. No. 6,379,753 to Soane et al. describes methods for modifying textile materials to render them, for example, water repellent by covalently bonding multifunctional molecules to the textile material. The multifunctional

molecules are polymers with plural functional groups or regions, such as binding groups, hydrophobic groups, and hydrophilic groups and oleophobic groups.

[0012] As can be seen there is a need for a product that offers the controlled and even coating of commercial treatment operations with the convenience and ease of home use. Additionally the coating should be cured at temperatures that are attainable in commonly available residential dryers as curing at high temperatures makes the coating excessively durable typically resulting in an unfavorable handfeel owing to excessive build up over numerous treatment cycles. Furthermore, the reduced temperature curing results in not only improved handfeel, it allows for an easily reversible and/or removable coating. Such a transient coating reduces coating build up over multiple applications or treatments that result in poor handfeel, and also reduces the potential for leaving a visible residue or causing an undesirable changes in appearance, such as yellowing or discoloration of white or lighted colored fabrics. The product should also not lock in pre-existing stains or soils and thereby ruin fabrics, including clothes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] The present invention is based in part on the discovery that compositions containing a hydrophobic agent and an optional fluoropolymer when applied to fabrics and cured by drying and/or heating will impart numerous fabric protection benefits, including stain resistance, oil repellency, water repellency, softness, wrinkle and damage resistance, and improved handfeel. Fabric protection benefits include minimizing fiber wear (e.g., retaining fiber tensile strength), maintaining fabric appearance by reducing fiber pilling, and/or reducing color loss, and/or inhibiting the deposition of fugitive dyes onto the fabric during a washing process. These benefits, individually and collectively, increase the useful longevity of the treated garment or fabric. Fabric treatment compositions may also include a zeta potential modifier.

[0014] In one aspect, the invention is directed to a method of increasing the fabric protection properties of a fabric that includes the steps of:

[0015] (a) depositing a composition onto the fabric wherein the composition comprises at least one hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C.; optionally a fluoropolymer, and

[0016] (b) curing said fabric at a temperature above ambient but less than 100° C.

[0017] In a further aspect, the invention is directed to a composition for textile treatment that includes:

[0018] a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C.;

[0019] a fluoropolymer; and

[0020] a carrier.

[0021] In a further aspect, the invention is directed to a composition for textile treatment that includes:

[0022] a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C.;

[0023] a fluoropolymer; and

[0024] an effective amount of at least one zeta potential modifier so that the composition has a zeta potential that is positive and greater than zero millivolts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0025] Fabric treatment compositions of the present invention generally comprise (i) a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C., (ii) an optional fluoropolymer, and (iii) a carrier. Compositions are aqueous systems that may optionally include a zeta potential modifier, and may optionally include an organic solvent.

[0026] As further described herein the presence of at least one zeta potential modifier is preferred when the composition is used in conjunction with or following laundering with detergent. However, the potential modifier is not necessary when the fabric treatment composition is used to pretreat or treat a fabric by direct application or through a treatment liquor in which the inventive fabric treatment composition is used in the absence of any other treatments such as a presoak composition, laundry additive or detergent. Hence, the zeta potential modifier is not necessary under these preceding conditions to impart the desirable fabric protection benefits, including stain resistance, oil repellency, water repellency, softness, wrinkle and damage resistance, and improved handfeel. All percentages specified herein are based on weight unless noted otherwise.

[0027] Fluoropolymer

[0028] According to the present invention, the fluoropolymers as prepared may contain some amount of surfactants, especially mixtures of cationic and nonionic surfactants, but usually the amounts are small. A preferred range for fluoropolymers is 0.5 to 60%, more preferred is 1 to 40%, and further preferred is 5 to 30%.

[0029] The fluoropolymers employed in the present invention can be water insoluble oily soil repellents and may have one or more fluoroaliphatic radicals, and/or one or more perfluoroalkyl radicals and/or partially or fully fluorinated radical substituents. They can be nonionic in that they do not contain an ionized functional group such as a quaternary ammonium group. They can be cationic in that they contain an ionized or ionizable functional group, such as a quaternary ammonium group in the first instance, or a tertiary amine which is protonatable to provide for a positive charge center. They can be zwitterionic in that they have both cationic and anionic groups present, suitably with the number of cationic and anionic groups present being essentially equivalent in number to provide an overall net nonionic property to the fluoropolymer, and also suitably with the number of cationic and anionic groups present being essentially non-equivalent in number to provide an overall net positive or cationic charge to the fluoropolymer. Useful classes of the fluoropolymers are the fluorocarbonylimino biurets, the fluoroesters, the fluoroester carbamates, and the fluoropolymers. The class of fluorocarbonylimino biurets is represented by U.S. Pat. No. 4,958,039 to Pechhold, which is incorporated herein by reference. The class of fluorocarbonylimino biurets is particularly useful because of the

outstanding antisoilant protection it provides. The class of fluoroesters is represented by U.S. Pat. No. 3,923,715 to Dettre et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 4,029,585 to Dettre et al., which are incorporated herein by reference. These patents disclose perfluoroalkyl esters of carboxylic acids of 3 to 30 carbon atoms. An example is the citric acid ester of perfluoroalkyl aliphatic alcohols such as a mixture of 2-perfluoroalkyl ethanols containing 8 to 16 carbon atoms. The class of fluoroester carbamates is also disclosed in aforementioned U.S. Pat. No. 4,029,585. The class of fluoropolymers is represented by U.S. Pat. No. 3,645,989 to Tandy and U.S. Pat. No. 3,645,990 to Reynolds, which are incorporated herein by reference. The patents describe, respectively, fluorinated polymers from acrylic and methacrylic derived fluoro-substituted monomers and methyl acrylate or ethyl acrylate, optionally with small amounts of other monomers.

[0030] A useful fluoropolymer is the terpolymer formed by polymerization of an aliphatic or aromatic alpha olefin or an alkyl vinyl ether, a non-hydrolyzable perfluoroalkyl substituted monomer and maleic anhydride as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,245,116 to Pechhold et al which is incorporated herein by reference. Useful fluoropolymers are ZONYL 8412 and ZONYL RN available from Ciba-Geigy; SCOTCHGARD FC 255, SCOTCHGARD FC 214-230, FLUORAD series, such as FLUORAD FC 129, available from the 3M Corporation (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, St. Paul, Minn.); and TEFLON RN, TEFLON 8070, and TEFLON 8787, available from Dupont. Additional useful fluoropolymers include ZONYL 7950, ZONYL 5180, ZONYL 6885, ZONYL 7910, ZONYL 6700, ZONYL 8300, ZONYL 6991, ZONYL 310 and ZONYL NWG, all from Dupont. Useful fluoropolymers also include fluoropolymers available from Asahi Glass, Atochem (Atofina), Daikin, Clariant, Goldschmidt, Hoechst Celanese, Mitsubishi, Peach State Laboratories, Shaw Industries and Trichromatic Carpet. Examples include the FOMBLIN FE-20 series of aqueous based perfluoro polyether micro-emulsions (available from Ausimont USA, Thorofare, N.J.), fluoropolymer emulsion 3310, 3311 and Unidyne® TG-532 (available from Daikin Industries Ltd., Japan), fluoropolymer emulsions NUVA 5006, NUVA LB Liquid, NUVA LC Liquid (available from Clariant Corporation, Charlotte, N.C.), fluoropolymer REPEARL F-45 (available from Mitsubishi International Corporation, NY) and MYAFIX WS and MYAFIX EX.WS (available from Peach State Labs, Rome, Ga.). Other examples include NUVA FT fluorochemical acrylate polymer (available from Clariant Corporation), SHAWGUARD 353 fluoroalkyl acrylate copolymer (available from Shaw Industries, Inc.) and BARTEX TII, BARTEX MAC, both fluoroalkyl acrylate polymers (available from Trichromatic Carpets, Inc., Quebec, Canada).

[0031] Highly preferred materials of this class of fluoropolymers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0032] Hydrophobic Agent

[0033] A preferred range for hydrophobic agents is 0.5 to 60%, more preferred is 1 to 40%, and further preferred is 5 to 30%.

[0034] The hydrophobic agent compounds of the invention include those which are at least partly insoluble in water at a temperature of 20° C. and which have a melting point or glass transition temperature below 100° C. and preferably between about 45° C. to below 100° C. Suitable hydrophobic agents include hydrophobic polymer, copolymers, and copolymers containing hydrophobic monomers. Suitable hydrophobic agents include hydrophobic waxes, including, but not limited to paraffin waxes. The paraffin waxes suitable for use in accordance with the invention are generally complex mixtures without a clear-cut melting point. For characterization purposes, their melting range is normally determined by differential thermoanalysis (DTA), as described in "The Analyst" 87 (1962), 420, and/or by their solidification point. This is understood to be the temperature at which the wax changes from a liquid into a solid state through slow cooling. According to the invention, both paraffins can be completely liquid at room temperature, i.e. those with a solidification point below 25° C., and paraffins solid at room temperature may be used. The paraffin wax is preferably solid at room temperature and can be present in completely liquid form at 100° C. Suitable paraffin waxes for use in accordance with the invention may be obtained, for example, under the name of LUNAFLEX from Fuller and under the name of DEAWAX from DEA Mineralöl AG.

[0035] Other suitable hydrophobic agents are produced from ethylenically unsaturated monomers. Examples of such monomers are styrene, acrylic acid or methacrylic acid esters of aliphatic C₁ to C₁₈ alcohols, acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, acrylic acid and methacrylic acid. Poly(meth)acrylates of two or more of these monomers, which may optionally contain other monomers in small quantities, are particularly preferred. Most particularly preferred polymers contain 1 to 30 parts by weight of monomers containing carboxylic acid groups; 30 to 70 parts by weight of monomers which form homopolymers having glass temperatures below 20° C., preferably esters of acrylic acid with C₁ to C₁₈ alcohols and/or methacrylic acid with C₁ to C₁₈ alcohols; and 30 to 70 parts by weight of monomers which form homopolymers having glass transition temperatures above room temperature, preferably methacrylic acid esters of C₁ to C₃ alcohols or styrene. Examples of such polymers include the following commercial products that are available as dispersions: SYNTRAN 1501 (Interpolymer), PRIMAL 644 (Rohm & Haas), NEOCRYL A 1049 (ICI). Other preferred polymers include low molecular weight (below 500,000) polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyolefin, polyurethane, ethyl vinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, and co-polymers.

[0036] Another class of suitable hydrophobic agents are emulsifiable waxes. Emulsifiable waxes, capable of forming wax emulsions, include, for example, oxidized polyethylene, ethylene acrylic acid copolymers, and montanic acid and ester waxes available as LUWAX. Also suitable are polyolefin waxes, maleic grafted polyolefin waxes, paraffin, other hydrocarbon waxes and vegetable waxes such as carnauba and candelilla. Preferred emulsifiable waxes include polyethylene, polypropylene, oxidized polyethylene, oxidized polypropylene, ethylene acrylic copolymers, and maleic grafted polyolefins. Preferred emulsifiable waxes include polyolefin that is partially modified to contain functional groups improving dispersability of the waxes, such functional groups including alkoxyl, carboxyl, amide, alkylamide, sulfonic, phosphonic or mixtures thereof. These also

include waxes containing chemical groups which facilitate emulsification such as carboxylic or related groups. Examples of emulsifiable waxes include oxygen-containing wax or oxidized waxes as illustrated by those described in the following patents: natural waxes such as candelilla, carnauba, beeswax, coconut wax, montan wax, as well as oxidized petroleum waxes as illustrated by U.S. Pat. No. 2,879,237 to Groote et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,879,238 to Groote et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,879,239 to Groote et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,879,240 to Groote et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 2,879,241 to Groote et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,163,548 to Stark, and U.S. Pat. No. 4,004,932 to Bienvenu, which are incorporated herein by reference. Other examples include carboxylic adducts such as maleic and related anhydrides added to waxes such as those described in the following U.S. Pat. No. 3,933,511 to Heintzelman et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 3,933,512 to Heintzelman et al., which are incorporated herein by reference. Typical examples are esters, amides, and ester-amides of compositions of one or more of the formulas disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,933,511 and 3,933,512 which are incorporated herein by reference. Some of these waxes are sold by Petrolite Corporation under the name CERAMER.

[0037] Other preferred waxes may be, for example, alkyl methicone AMS-C30 (Dow Corning), natural candelilla (Candelilla from Frank B. Ross), stearyoxytrimethylsilane 580 wax (Dow Corning), cetyl palmitate DUB PC Stearine (Dubois), microcrystalline/petrolatum MULTIWAX B710 (Witco), Scale paraffin (Strahl and Pitsch), natural beeswax (Frank B. Ross), microcrystalline (Ultraflex Petrolite), microcrystalline Ross wax 1329/1 (Frank B. Ross), microcrystalline Multiwax 110X (Witco), paraffin (Altafin 135/140), petrolatum (Petrolatum Snow from Penreco), refined paraffin (Strahl and Pitsch), and paraffin Altafin 125/130. Preferably, the low melting point wax is selected from microcrystalline Multiwax W145A (Witco), paraffin (Altafin 140/145 from Astor-Durachem), and microcrystalline Ross wax 1365 (Frank B. Ross). Highly preferred materials of this class of hydrophobic agents are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0038] Liquid Carrier

[0039] The liquid carrier may be an aqueous or non-aqueous system or combination of compatible materials. In one preferred embodiment, the liquid carrier is an aqueous system that is predominantly water. In another embodiment in which the carrier is predominantly water, the carrier can also contain a low molecular weight organic solvent that is highly soluble in water, e.g., C₁ to C₄ monohydric alcohols, C₂ to C₁₂ polyhydric alcohols, such as C₂ to C₆ alkylene glycols and C₂ to C₁₂ polyalkylene glycols, C₂ to C₆ alkylene carbonates, and mixtures thereof. Examples of these water-soluble solvents include ethanol, propanol and isopropanol. Water is a preferred liquid carrier due to its low cost, availability, safety, and environmental compatibility. The water can be distilled, deionized, or tap water.

[0040] Highly preferred materials of this class of liquid carriers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or

yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0041] When a concentrated composition is used, the level of liquid carrier can typically be from about 20% to about 80% of the composition, preferably from about 30% to about 70%, and more preferably from about 40% to about 60% of the composition. When a dilute composition is used, for instance in a rinse added maintenance or spray application, the amount of liquid carrier can be greater. For rinse added maintenance applications, the liquid carrier may typically range from about 50% to about 99% of the composition, preferably from about 60% to about 98%, and more preferably from about 80% to about 95% of the composition. For direct applications, such as for spray and aerosol applications, the liquid carrier can typically range from about 70% to about 99.9%, by weight of the composition, preferably from about 80% to about 99.5%, and more preferably from about 90% to about 99% of the composition.

[0042] Zeta Potential Modifier

[0043] Compositions of the present invention include fluoropolymers and hydrophobic agents that become covalently and/or non-covalently attached to the surface of fabrics upon being cured at elevated temperatures. There is a wide range of phenomena which can influence the fundamental interactions at the molecular and colloidal level. One of these factors is the electrokinetics. In this regard, the term, zeta potential, applies to the electrical charges existing in fine dispersions. Specifically, a solid particle, e.g., insoluble polymer, that is suspended in an aqueous system is surrounded by a dense layer of ions having a specific electrical charge. This layer is surrounded by another layer, more diffuse than the first, that has an electrical charge of its own. The bulk of the suspended liquid also has its own electrical charge. The difference in electrical charge between the dense layer of ions surrounding the particle and the bulk of the suspended liquid is the zeta potential, usually measured in millivolts. The zeta potential, ξ , is defined by the equation:

$$\xi = 4\pi\delta q/D$$

[0044] where q is the charge on the particle, δ is the thickness of the zone of influence of the charge on the particle, and D is the dielectric constant of the liquid.

[0045] Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the fluoropolymers are attracted to the fabric surface owing to a combination of van der Waals attractive forces and electrostatic interactions. In the case of treating fabrics containing cellulose fibers, e.g., cotton, the surface of the fabric is negatively charged due to the presence of the carboxylic groups of the cellulose. In the case of treating fabrics containing synthetic fibers, such as polyester, nylon, polyamide and other synthetic polymers or blends, adsorbed materials such as negative compounds or negatively charged surface active materials, e.g., anionic surfactants found in detergents, can result in the surface of the fabric becoming negatively charged due to the presence of these materials on the fabric surface. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the existence of negatively charged groups or adsorbed negatively charged materials on the fabric surface may inhibit the attraction of the fluoropolymers to the fabric surface to at least to some extent.

[0046] It is believed that the adverse effect of any negative surface charge present on fabrics to be treated, regardless of the cause or source of said negative surface charge, can be reduced or avoided by introducing an appropriate amount of zeta potential modifier to adjust the zeta potential of the treatment liquor to a positive value greater than zero. Typically sufficient zeta potential modifier is added so that the zeta potential of the treatment liquor is positive and greater than zero millivolts. Preferably the zeta potential of the treatment liquor ranges from a positive value of zero to about +150 millivolts and preferably is less than about +100 millivolts. When at least one zeta potential modifier is employed, it will typically range from 0.1 to 30% of the composition. It has been found that exceeding this level leads to decreased performance. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that exceeding this level of zeta potential modifier leads to interference in depositing the desired repelling species. This discovery distinguishes the invention from prior art that employs zeta potential modifiers, given that the levels in the instant invention are dictated by efficacy of the treatment liquor, not for stabilization of the composition.

[0047] Suitable zeta potential modifiers are cationic agents including, for example, cationic monomers, polymers, and copolymers comprising cationic monomers, wherein the cationic monomer is present at least to an extent sufficient to provide an overall net cationic nature, i.e. overall positive charge, to the copolymer. Preferred cationic agents include cationic surfactants, including, but not limited to, mono and di-methyl fatty amines, alkyl trimethyl ammonium salts, dialkyl dimethyl ammonium salts, alkyl amine acetates, trialkylammonium acetates, alkyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium salts, dialkylmethylbenzyl ammonium salts, alkylpyridinium halide and alkyl (alkyl substituted) pyridinium salts, alkylthiomethylpyridinium salts, alkylamidomethylpyridinium salts, alkylquinolinium salts, alkylisoquinolinium salts, N,N-alkylmethylpyrrolidonium salts, 1,1-dialkylpiperidinium salts, 4,4-dialkylthiamorpholinium salts, 4,4-dialkylthiamorpholinium-1-oxide salts, methyl bis(alkyl ethyl)-2-alkyl imidazolium methyl sulfate (and other salts), methyl bis(alkylamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate (and other salts), alkylamidopropyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium salts, carboxyalkyl-alkyldimethyl ammonium salts, alkylamine oxides, alkyl dimethyl amine oxides, poly(vinylmethylpyridinium) salts, poly(vinylpyridine) salts, polyethyleneimines, trialkyl phosphonium bicarbonates (and other salts), trialkylmethyl phosphonium salts, alkylethylmethylsulfonium salts, and alkyl dimethylsulfoxonium salts.

[0048] Suitable zeta potential modifiers further include cationic (i.e. bearing one or more positive charges) and cationically modified materials, including, for example, cationic and cationically modified organic polymers, cationic and cationically modified biopolymers, and cationic and cationically modified inorganic materials, including, for example, cationic and cationically modified clays, silicas, metal oxides and composite materials.

[0049] Suitable organic cationic polymers include, but are not limited to, cationic cellulose derivatives, such as, for example, a quaternized hydroxyethylcellulose which is available under the name Polymer JR 400® from Amerchol, cationic starch, copolymers of diallylammonium salts and acrylamides, quaternized vinylpyrrolidone/vinylimidazole

polymers, such as, for example, Luviquat® (BASF), condensation products of polyglycols and amines, quaternized collagen polypeptides, such as, for example, lauryldimethonium hydroxypropyl hydrolyzed collagen (Lamequat®/Grunau), quaternized wheat polypeptides, polyethyleneimine, cationic silicone polymers, such as, for example, amodimethicones, copolymers of adipic acid and dimethylaminohydroxypropyldiethylenetriamine (Cartaretins®/Sandoz), copolymers of acrylic acid with dimethyldiallylammonium chloride (Merquat(D550/Chemviron), polyaminopolyamides, as described, for example, in FR 2252840 A, and their crosslinked water-soluble polymers, condensation products of dihaloalkyls, such as, for example, dibromobutane with bisdialkylamines, such as, for example, bisdimethylamino-1,3-propane, cationic guar gum, such as, for example, Jaguar® CBS, Jaguar® C-17, Jaguar® C-16 from Celanese, guar guar (e.g. guarhydroxypropyltrimethylammonium chloride; Cosmedia Guar C 261; Cognis GmbH; guar flour; Cosmedia Guar U, Cognis GmbH), quaternized ammonium salt polymers, such as, for example, Mirapol® A-15, Mirapol® AD-1, Mirapol® AZ-1 from Miranol, and cationically modified starches, as for example, Softgel BDA and Softgel BD, both from Avebe.

[0050] Additional cationic compounds suitable for use as zeta potential modifiers include amine acid salts; polyacrylamidopropyltrimmonium chloride; betaines, such as but not limited to, alkyl betaines, alkyl amido betaines, imidazolium betaines; quaternized poly(vinylpyridine); amidoamine acid salts; poly(imine) acid salts; polyethylene imine acid salts; cationic polyacryamides; poly(vinylamine) acid salts; cationic ionene polymers; poly(vinylimidazolium salts); quaternized silicone compounds, such as but not limited to, the diquaternary polydimethylsiloxanes; poly(vinyl alcohol) quaternary materials; polydimethyldiallylammonium chloride; cationic exchange resins; anionic exchange resins; copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and methacrylamidopropyltrimethylammonium chloride; acidified polyvinylpyrrolidones; acidified copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and vinylacetate; acidified copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate; copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and methacrylamidopropyl trimethylammonium chloride; copolymers of quaternized vinylpyrrolidone and dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate; acidified copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and styrene; acidified copolymers of vinylpyrrolidone and acrylic acid, and cationic polyelectrolyte polymers.

[0051] Suitable organic cationic inorganic materials suitable for use as zeta potential modifiers include, but are not limited to cationic clay, such as for example, sodium montmorillonite, hydrotalcite, vermiculite, kaolinite; clays reacted with quaternary compounds, such as, tetramethylammonium chloride; polyquaternized amines; acidified n-alkyl-2-pyrrolidones; polyacrylic acid polymers; alkyl C8 to alkyl C24 organic acids, such as but not limited to, lauric acid, stearic acid; and combinations thereof.

[0052] Suitable metal oxides and composites include cationically modified metal oxides and layered metal oxide composites, for example, but not limited to, oxides of silicon, germanium, selenium, chromium, titanium, aluminum, gallium, nickel, iron, copper, silver, gold, platinum, magnesium and calcium, and mixtures and/or layered composites thereof.

[0053] Suitable zeta potential modifiers further include cationically modified silicas, such as those disclosed in U.S. Appl. No. 20030157804, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0054] Suitable zeta potential modifiers further include chitosans, which are cationic biopolymers under the pH conditions, and cationic chitin derivatives, such as, for example, quaternized chitosan, optionally in microcrystalline distribution. Examples are disclosed in Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, 5th Ed., Vol. A6, Weinheim, Verlag Chemie, 1986, p. 231-232, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0055] Preferred forms of the zeta potential modifiers described herein include water soluble, water dispersible and water insoluble suspensions, dispersions or emulsions of these zeta potential modifiers. Preferred forms of the inorganic and polymeric based zeta potential modifiers include fine particulates for improved dispersability in the compositions of the present invention. Preferred forms of the inorganic and polymeric zeta potential modifiers include particulates having particle sizes in the micron and nanometer size ranges. Preferred sizes of particulates, for example, include particle sizes in the range of about 1 nanometer to about 100 microns, most preferred being particle sizes in the range of about 1 nanometer to about 1 microns.

[0056] It should be noted that the source of the zeta potential modifiers is not critical. Thus, as further demonstrated herein, commercially available fabric softeners that include cationic surfactants can be employed as a source of zeta potential modifiers. Thus, the fabric softener serves multiple functions including facilitating the attachment of the fluoropolymers and hydrophobic agents to the fabric surface. Further, multivalent cationic salts, including cations of the alkaline earth metals (Group IIA), transition metals (Groups IIB, IVB, VB, VIIB, VIIIB, VIIIIB, IB, IIB, IIA, IVA) and non-metal elements (Groups IVA, VA) may be appropriate for use as zeta potential modifiers alone, combined together, or in combination with other zeta potential modifiers described herein.

[0057] It should further be noted that the zeta potential modifiers are included as optional ingredients of the fabric treatment composition as discussed herein. Thus when the composition is formulated for use as a treatment not in the presence of another treatment aid, for example a detergent containing anionic surfactants, or when the composition is formulated for use as a direct fabric treatment, then the zeta potential modifiers are deemed optional in that they are not needed to counteract the negatively charged species, such as anionic surfactants found in commercial detergents, that might otherwise interfere to some extent with the attraction of the fluoropolymer to the fabric surface.

[0058] Highly preferred materials of this class of zeta potential modifiers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0059] Optional Ingredients

[0060] Emulsifiers

[0061] The above fluoropolymers and hydrophobic agents may require the use of emulsifiers, such as ethoxylated fatty alcohols, fatty amides, fatty acids and alkylphenols and fatty amines or salts thereof. Other preferred emulsifiers include quaternary ammonium or protonated amine cationic surfactants such as trimethyl-dodecylammonium chloride, trimethyl-hexadecylammonium chloride, dimethyl-dicocoammonium chloride, and dimethyl-octadecylammonium acetate. Preferred nonionic emulsifiers include the etherification products of ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide with glycerol monooleate, oleic acid, cetyl alcohol, pelargonic acid, stearyl alcohol, sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan monostearate.

[0062] Highly preferred materials of this class of emulsifiers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying, or after the drying step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0063] pH Adjusters

[0064] The pH of a solution of compositions of this invention may be adjusted to be in the range from about 2 to about 11. Adjustment of pH may be carried out by including a small quantity of an acid in the formulation. Because no strong pH buffers need be present, only small amounts of acid may be required. The pH may be adjusted with inorganic or organic acids, for example hydrochloric acid or alternatively with monobasic or dibasic organic acids, such as acetic acid, maleic acid or in particular glycolic acid. Additional acids that can be used include, but are not limited to, methyl sulfonic, hydrochloric, sulfuric, phosphoric, citric, maleic, and succinic acids. Adjustment of pH may be carried out by including a small quantity of a base in the formulation. Because no strong pH buffers need be present, only small amounts of base may be required. The pH may be adjusted with inorganic bases, including, but not limited to, alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts of hydroxides, carbonates, bicarbonates, borates, sulfonates, phosphates, phosphonates and silicates. The pH may be adjusted with organic bases, including, but not limited to, salts of monocarboxylic acids, salts of dicarboxylic acids, salts of citric acid and other suitable organic acids with water soluble conjugate bases presented previously herein. The pH may be adjusted with organic bases such as the alkanolamines including methanol, ethanol and propanol amines, including dimethanol, diethanol and dipropanol amines, and including trim ethanol, tri ethanol and tripropanol amines.

[0065] Highly preferred materials of this class of pH adjusters are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0066] Silicones

[0067] An optional silicone component can be used in an amount from about 0.1% to about 6% of the composition,

preferably from 0.1 to 3% of the composition. These optional ingredients include silicones and organopolysiloxanes. In addition to the known dialkylpolysiloxanes, it is possible to use, in particular, hydrophilizing silicones, such as dimethylpolysiloxanes which contain incorporated epoxy groups and/or polyethoxy or polypropoxy or polyethoxy/propoxy groups. Preferred siloxanes include aminoethylaminopropyl dimethyl siloxane, hydroxy terminated dimethyl siloxane (dimethiconol), and modified hydrogen alkyl polysiloxanes. Preferred silicones comprise cationic and amphoteric silicones, polysiloxanes, and polysiloxanes having hydrogen-bonding functional groups consisting of amino, carboxyl, hydroxyl, ether, polyether, aldehyde, ketone, amide, ester, and thiol groups. Such polysiloxanes include, but are not limited to, polyether-modified polysiloxanes, amino-modified polysiloxanes, epoxy-modified polysiloxanes, polyhydrido-modified polysiloxanes, phenol derivative-modified polysiloxanes, ABA-type polysiloxanes, including those available from OSI Specialties, Inc. (a division of Witco Corporation), under the SILWET, NUWET, NUDRY, NUSOF, MAGNASOFT trade names. Preferred silicones may include polydimethylsiloxanes of viscosity from about 100 centistokes (cs) to about 100,000 cs, and preferably from about 200 cs to about 60,000 cs and/or silicone gums. These silicones can be used in emulsified form, which can be conveniently obtained directly from the suppliers. Examples of these pre-emulsified silicones are the 60% emulsion of polydimethylsiloxane (350 cs) sold by Dow Corning Corporation under the trade name DOW CORNING 1157 Fluid and the 50% emulsion of polydimethylsiloxane (10,000 cs) sold by General Electric Company under the trade name GENERAL ELECTRIC 2140 silicones. Silicone foam suppressants can also be used. These are usually not emulsified and typically have viscosities from about 100 cs to about 10,000 cs, and preferably from about 200 cs to about 5,000 cs. Very low levels can be used, typically from about 0.01% to about 1%, and preferably from about 0.02% to about 0.5%. Another preferred foam suppressant is a silicone/silicate mixture, for example, DOW CORNING ANTIFOAM A.

[0068] Highly preferred materials of this class of silicones are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0069] Nonionic Surfactant

[0070] The composition can contain a nonionic surfactant. When a nonionic surfactant is added to the composition, it can typically be added at a level from about 0.05% to about 30%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 20%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 10% of the composition.

[0071] Suitable nonionic surfactants include addition products of alkoxyating agents such as ethylene oxide (EO), propylene oxide (PO), isopropylene oxide (IPO), or butylene oxide (BO), or a mixture thereof, with fatty alcohols, fatty acids, and fatty amines. Any of the alkoxyated materials of the particular type described hereinafter can be used as the nonionic surfactant. Preferably, the nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkylether carboxylate,

alcohol ethoxylate or secondary alcohol ethoxylate, and alkyl phenyl ethoxylate or alkyl aryl ethoxylate. These nonionic surfactants may also contain a mixture of ethoxylate and propoxylate. Suitable alkylpolysaccharides for use herein are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,565,647 to Llenado and incorporated herein by reference, having a hydrophobic group containing from about 6 to about 30 carbon atoms, preferably from about 10 to about 16 carbon atoms and a polysaccharide, e.g., a polyglycoside, hydrophilic group. Further examples of suitable surfactants are described in McCutcheon's Vol. 1: Emulsifiers and Detergents, North American Ed., McCutcheon Division, MC Publishing Co., 1995, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0072] Highly preferred materials of this class of nonionic surfactants are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0073] Cationic Surfactants

[0074] The composition of the present invention can contain a cationic surfactant. When a cationic surfactant is added to the composition of the present invention, it can typically be added at a level from about 0.05% to about 30%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 20%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 10% of the composition.

[0075] The cationic surfactant can optionally be one or more fabric softener actives. Preferred fabric softening actives according to the present invention include amines and quaternized amines. The following are examples of preferred softener actives: N,N-di(tallowyl-oxy-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N,N-di(canolyloxy-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N,N-di(tallowyl-oxy-ethyl)-N-methyl, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) ammonium methyl sulfate; N,N-di(canolyloxy-ethyl)-N-methyl, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) ammonium methyl sulfate; N,N-di(tallowylamidoethyl)-N-methyl, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) ammonium methyl sulfate; N,N-di(2-tallowyloxy-2-oxo-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N,N-di(2-canolyloxy-2-oxo-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N,N-di(2-tallowyloxyethylcarboxyloxyethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N,N-di(2-canolyloxyethylcarboxyloxyethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N-(2-tallowyloxy-2-ethyl)-N-(2-tallowyloxy-2-oxo-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N-(2-canolyloxy-2-ethyl)-N-(2-canolyloxy-2-oxo-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N,N,N-tri(tallowyl-oxy-ethyl)-N-methyl ammonium chloride; N,N,N-tri(canolyloxy-ethyl)-N-methyl ammonium chloride; N-(2-tallowyloxy-2-oxoethyl)-N-(tallowyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; N-(2-canolyloxy-2-oxoethyl)-N-(canolyloxy)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride; 1,2-ditallowyloxy-3-N,N,N-trimethylammonio propane chloride; and 1,2-dicanolyloxy-3-N,N,N-trimethylammonio propane chloride; and mixtures of the above actives. Particularly preferred is N,N-di(tallowyl-oxy-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride, where the tallow chains are at least partially unsaturated and N,N-di(canolyloxy-ethyl)-N,N-dimethyl ammonium chloride, N,N-di(tallowyl-oxy-ethyl)-N-methyl, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) ammonium methyl sulfate; N,N-di(canolyloxy-ethyl)-N-methyl, N-(2-hydroxyethyl) ammonium

methyl sulfate; and mixtures thereof. Additional fabric softening agents useful herein are described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,643,865 to Mermelstein et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,622,925 to de Buzzaccarini et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,545,350 to Baker et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,474,690 to Wahl et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,417,868 to Turner et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,661,269 to Trinh et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,439,335 to Burns, U.S. Pat. No. 4,401,578 to Verbruggen, U.S. Pat. No. 4,308,151 to Cambre, U.S. Pat. No. 4,237,016 to Rudkin et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,233,164 to Davis, U.S. Pat. No. 4,045,361 to Watt et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,974,076 to Wiersema et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,886,075 to Bernadino, U.S. Pat. No. 3,861,870 Edwards et al., and European Patent Application publication No. 472,178, by Yamamura et al., all of said documents being incorporated herein by reference.

[0076] Other suitable cationic surfactants include ethoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactants. Some preferred ethoxylated quaternary ammonium surfactants include PEG-5 cocoammonium methosulfate; PEG-15 cocoammonium chloride; PEG-15 oleoammonium chloride; and bis(polyethoxyethanol) tallow ammonium chloride. Further examples of suitable surfactants are described in McCutcheon's Vol. 1: Emulsifiers and Detergents, North American Ed., McCutcheon Division, MC Publishing Co., 1995, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0077] The counterion to these cationic surfactants may be selected, without limitation, from the group consisting of fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, chlorite, chlorate, hydroxide, hypophosphite, phosphite, phosphate, carbonate, formate, acetate, lactate, and other carboxylates, oxalate, methyl sulfate, ethyl sulfate, benzoate, and salicylate, and the like. Highly preferred materials of this class of cationic surfactants and their counterions are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0078] Amphoteric and Zwitterionic Surfactants

[0079] The composition of the present invention can contain amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactants. When an amphoteric or zwitterionic surfactant is added to the composition of the present invention, it can typically be added at a level from about 0.05% to about 30%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 20%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 10% of the composition.

[0080] Suitable amphoteric surfactants include amine oxides having the formula $(R_1)(R_2)(R_3)NO$ wherein each of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 is independently a saturated substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched hydrocarbon chains of from 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Preferred amine oxide surfactants to be used according to the present invention include amine oxides having the formula $(R_1)(R_2)(R_3)NO$ wherein R_1 is an hydrocarbon chain comprising from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 6 to 20, more preferably from 8 to 16, further preferably from 8 to 12, and wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched hydrocarbon chains comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, preferably from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and more preferably are methyl groups. R_1 may be a saturated substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched hydrocarbon

chain. Suitable amine oxides for use herein are, for instance, naturally derived hydrocarbon blends of C_8 - C_{10} amine oxides as well as C_{12} - C_{16} amine oxides commercially available from Hoechst.

[0081] Suitable zwitterionic surfactants may contain both cationic and anionic hydrophilic groups on the same molecule at a relatively wide pH range. A typical cationic group is a quaternary ammonium group, although other positively charged groups like phosphonium, imidazolium and sulfonium groups can be used. Typical anionic hydrophilic groups are carboxylates and sulfonates, although other groups like sulfates, phosphonates, and the like can be used. A generic formula for some zwitterionic surfactants that can be used herein is $R_1-N^+(R_2)(R_3)R_4X^-$ wherein R_1 is a hydrophobic group; R_2 and R_3 are each C_1 - C_4 alkyl, hydroxy alkyl or other substituted alkyl group which can also be joined to form ring structures with the N; R_4 is a moiety joining the cationic nitrogen atom to the hydrophilic group and is typically an alkylene, hydroxy alkylene, or polyalkoxy group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and X is the hydrophilic group which is preferably a carboxylate or sulfonate group. Preferred hydrophobic groups R_1 are alkyl groups containing from 1 to 24, preferably less than 18, and more preferably less than 16 carbon atoms. The hydrophobic group can contain unsaturation and/or substituents and/or linking groups such as aryl groups, amido groups, ester groups and the like. In general, the simple alkyl groups are preferred for cost and stability reasons. Examples of amphoteric surfactants include alkylampho glycinate, and alkyl imino propionate. Highly preferred zwitterionic surfactants include betaine and sulphobetaine surfactants, derivatives thereof or mixtures thereof. The betaine or sulphobetaine surfactants are preferred herein as they are particularly suitable for the cleaning of delicate materials, including fine fabrics such as silk, wool and other naturally derived textile materials. Betaine and sulphobetaine surfactants are also extremely mild to the skin and/or fabrics to be treated that come in contact with the users skin.

[0082] Suitable betaine and sulphobetaine surfactants to be used herein include the betaine/sulphobetaine and betaine-like detergents wherein the molecule contains both basic and acidic groups which form an inner salt giving the molecule both cationic and anionic hydrophilic groups over a broad range of pH values. Some common examples of these detergents are described in U.S. Pat. No. 2,082,275 to Daimler et al., U.S. Pat. No. 2,702,279 to Funderburk et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 2,255,082 to Orthner et al., which are incorporated herein by reference. Further examples of suitable surfactants are described in McCutcheon's Vol. 1: Emulsifiers and Detergents, North American Ed., McCutcheon Division, MC Publishing Co., 1995, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0083] Highly preferred materials of this class of amphoteric and zwitterionic surfactants are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0084] Anionic Surfactants

[0085] The composition can contain an anionic surfactant. When an anionic surfactant is added to the composition of

the present invention, it can typically be added at a level from about 0.05% to about 15%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 5%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 1% of the composition.

[0086] Suitable anionic surfactants include C₈-C₁₈ alkyl sulfonates, C₁₀-C₁₄ linear or branched alkyl benzene sulfonates, C₁₀-C₁₄ alkyl sulfates and ethoxysulfates (e.g., STEPANOL AMC from Stepan), and C₉-C₁₅ alkyl ethoxy carboxylates (NEODOX surfactants available from Shell Chemical Corporation). Suitable commercially available sulfonates are available from Stepan under the trade name BIO-TERGE PAS-88 as well as from the Witco Corporation under the trade name WITCONATE NAS-8(8), and Hostapur SAS(E) from Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft, D-6230 Frankfurt, Germany. Anionic surfactants may be paired with organic counterions or multivalent counterions in order to prevent interference with cationic species. Further examples of suitable surfactants are described in McCutcheon's Vol. 1: Emulsifiers and Detergents, North American Ed., McCutcheon Division, MC Publishing Co., 1995, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0087] Highly preferred materials of this class of anionic surfactants are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0088] Soil Release Agents

[0089] The composition can include a soil release agent which is present from about 0% to about 5%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 3%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 2% of the composition. Polymeric soil release agents useful in the present invention include copolymeric blocks of terephthalate and polyethylene oxide or polypropylene oxide, and the like. A preferred soil release agent is a copolymer having blocks of terephthalate and polyethylene oxide. More specifically, these polymers may be comprised of repeating units of ethylene terephthalate and polyethylene oxide terephthalate at a molar ratio of ethylene terephthalate units to polyethylene oxide terephthalate units from about 25:75 to about 35:65, and the polyethylene oxide terephthalate containing polyethylene oxide blocks having molecular weights from about 300 to about 2000. The molecular weight of this type of polymeric soil release agent can be in the range from about 5,000 to about 55,000. Suitable soil release agents are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,702,857 to Gosselink; U.S. Pat. No. 4,711,730 to Gosselink et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 4,713,194 to Gosselink; U.S. Pat. No. 4,877,896 to Maldonado et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 4,956,447 Gosselink et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,749,596 to Po et al., all of which are incorporated herein by reference. Especially desirable optional ingredients are polymeric soil release agents comprising block copolymers of polyalkylene terephthalate and polyoxyethylene terephthalate, and block copolymers of polyalkylene terephthalate and polyethylene glycol. The polyalkylene terephthalate blocks may preferably comprise ethylene and/or propylene groups. Many such soil release polymers are nonionic, for example, the nonionic soil release polymer described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,849,257 to Borchert, Sr., et al., which is incorporated herein by reference. The polymeric soil release agents

useful in the present invention can include anionic and cationic polymeric soil release agents. Suitable anionic polymeric or oligomeric soil release agents are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,018,569 to Chang, which is incorporated herein by reference. Other suitable polymers are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,808,086 to Evans et al., which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0090] Highly preferred materials of this class of soil release polymers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0091] Antistatic Agents

[0092] The composition can include antistatic agents, which can be present at a level from about 0% to about 5%, preferably from about 0.005% to about 5%, more preferably from about 0.05% to about 2%, and further preferably from about 0.2% to about 1% of the composition. Preferred antistatic agents of the present invention include cationic surfactants, including quaternary ammonium compounds such as alkyl benzyl dimethyl ammonium chloride; dicoco quaternary ammonium chloride; coco dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride; soya trimethyl quaternary ammonium chloride; hydrogenated tallow dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride; and methyl dehydrogenated tallow benzyl ammonium chloride. Other preferred antistatic agents of the present invention are alkyl imidazolinium salts. Other preferred antistatic agents are the ion pairs of, e.g., anionic detergent surfactants and fatty amines, or quaternary ammonium derivatives thereof, e.g., those disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,756,850 to Nayar, which is incorporated herein by reference. Other preferred antistatic agents are ethoxylated and/or propoxylated sugar derivatives. Preferred antistatic agents include monolauryl trimethyl ammonium chloride, hydroxycetyl hydroxyethyl dimethyl ammonium chloride (available from Henkel Corporation under the trade name DEHYQUART E), and ethyl bis(polyethoxyethanol) alkyl ammonium ethyl sulfate (available from Witco Corporation under the trade name VARIQUAT 66), polyethylene glycols, polymeric quaternary ammonium salts (such as those available from Rhône-Poulenc Corporation under the MIRAPOL trade name), quaternized polyethyleneimines, vinylpyrrolidone/methacrylamidopropyl trimethylammonium chloride copolymer (available from GAF Corporation under the trade name GAFQUAT HS-100), triethonium hydrolyzed collagen ethosulfate (available from Maybrook Inc. under the trade name QUAT-PRO E), and mixtures thereof.

[0093] Highly preferred materials of this class of antistatic agents are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0094] Fragrance

[0095] Perfumes or fragrance materials may be added to the composition. The selection of the perfume or perfumes may be based upon the application, the desired effect on the consumer, and preferences of the formulator. The perfume

selected for use in the compositions and formulations of the present invention may contain ingredients with odor characteristics which are preferred in order to provide a fresh impression on the surface to which the composition is directed, for example, those which provide a fresh impression for fabrics. Such perfume may be preferably present at a level from about 0.01% to about 5%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 3%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 2% of the total composition.

[0096] Preferably, the perfume may be composed of fragrance materials selected from the group consisting of aromatic and aliphatic esters having molecular weights from about 13.0 to about 250; aliphatic and aromatic alcohols having molecular weights from about 90 to about 240; aliphatic ketones having molecular weights from about 150 to about 260; aromatic ketones having molecular weights from about 150 to about 270; aromatic and aliphatic lactones having molecular weights from about 130 to about 290; aliphatic aldehydes having molecular weights from about 140 to about 200; aromatic aldehydes having molecular weights from about 90 to about 230; aliphatic and aromatic ethers having molecular weights from about 150 to about 270; and condensation products of aldehydes and amines having molecular weights from about 180 to about 320; and mixtures thereof. Examples of such perfumes or fragrance materials include, but are not limited to: adoxal (2,6,10-trimethyl-9-undecen-1-al), allyl amyl glycolate, allyl cyclohexane (allyl-3-cyclohexylpropionate), amyl acetate (3-methyl-1-butanol), amyl salicylate, anisic aldehyde (4-methoxybenzaldehyde), aurantol (condensation product of methyl anthranilate and hydroxycitronellal), badanol (2-ethyl-4-(2,2,3-trimethyl-3-cyclopenten-1-yl)-2-buten-1-ol), benzaldehyde, benzophenone, benzyl acetate, benzyl salicylate, damascone (1-(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-buten-1-one), 3-hexen-1-ol, buccoxime (1,5-dimethyl-oximebicyclo[3,2,1]octan-8-one), cedrol (octahydro-3,6,8,8-tetramethyl-1H-3A,7-methanoazulen-6-ol), cetalox (dodecahydro-3A,6,6,9A-tetramethylnaphtho[2,1]furan), cis-3-hexenyl acetate, cis-3-hexenyl salicylate, citronellol (3,7-dimethyl-6-octenol), citronellyl nitrile (geranyl nitrile), clove stem oil, coumarin, cyclohexyl salicylate, cymal (2-methyl-3-(p-isopropylphenyl)-propionaldehyde), decyl aldehyde, damascone (1-(2,6,6-trimethyl-3-cyclohexen-1-yl)-2-buten-1-one), dihydromyrcenol (2,6-dimethyl-7-octan-2-ol), dimethyl benzyl carbonyl acetate, ethyl vanillin, ethyl-2-methyl butyrate, ethylene brassylate (ethylene tridecan-1,13-dioate), eucalyptol (1,8-epoxy-p-menthane), eugenol (4-allyl-2-methoxyphenol), exaltolide (cyclopentadecanolide), floor acetate (dihydronor-cyclopentadienyl acetate), florhydral (3-(3-isopropylphenyl)butanal), frutene (dihydronor-cyclopentadienyl propionate), galaxolide (1,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydro-4,6,6,7,8-hexamethylcyclopent-gamma-2-benzopyrane), gamma-decalactone (4-N-heptyl-4-hydroaldehyde), cinnamic aldehyde, hexyl salicylate, hydroxyambran (2-cyclododecylpropanol), hydroxycitronellal, ionone (4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexenyl-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one), ionone (4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one), ionone (4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-methylcyclohexyl-1-yl)-3-methyl-3-buten-2-one), 7-acetyl-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8-octahydro-1,1,6,7-tetramethylnaphthalene, isoegenol (2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-phenol), isojasmone (2-methyl-3-(2-pentenyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one), koavone (acetyl diisoamylene), lauric aldehyde, lavandin, lavender, natural lemon CP (major component d-limonene), d-li-

monene/orange terpenes (1-methyl-4-isopropenyl-1-cyclohexene), linalool (3-hydroxy-3,7-dimethyl-1,6-octadiene), linalyl acetate (3-hydroxy-3,7-dimethyl-1,6-octadiene acetate), Irg 201 (2,4-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethyl benzoic acid methyl ester), lyral (4-(4-hydroxy-4methyl-pentyl)-3-cyclohexene-1-carboxaldehyde), majantol (2,2-dimethyl-3-(3-methylphenyl)-propanol), mayol (4-(1-methylethyl)-cyclohexanemethanol), methyl anthranilate (methyl-2-aminobenzoate), methyl-alpha-naphthyl ketone, methyl cedrylone (methyl cedrenyl ketone), methyl chavicol (1-methoxy-4,2-propen-1-yl benzene), methyl dihydrojasmonate, methyl nonyl acetaldehyde, musk indanone (4-acetyl-6-tert-butyl-1,1-dimethylindane), nerol (2-cis-3,7-dimethyl-2,6-octadien-1-ol), nonalactone (4-hydroxynonanoic acid lactone), norlimbanol (1-(2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl)-3-hexanol), orange CP (major component d-limonene), para-tert-bucinal (2-methyl-3-(p-tert-butylphenyl)-propionaldehyde), p-hydroxyphenylbutanone, patchouli, phenyl acetaldehyde (1-oxo-2-phenylethane), phenyl acetaldehyde, dimethyl acetal, phenyl ethyl acetate, p-menth-1-en-8-ol, p-menth-1-en-1-ol, terpinyl acetate p-menth-1-en-8-yl acetate), tetrahydrolinalool (3,7-dimethyl-3-octanol), tetrahydromyrcenol (2,6-dimethyl-2-octanol), tonalid/musk plus (7-acetyl-1,1,3,4,4,6-hexamethyltetralin), undecalactone (4-N-heptyl-4-hydroxybutanoic acid lactone), undecavertol (4-methyl-3-decen-5-ol), undecanal, undecylenic aldehyde, vanillin (4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde), verdox (2-tert-butyl cyclohexyl acetate), vertenex (4-tert-butyl cyclohexyl acetate), and mixtures thereof.

[0097] The selection of such perfumes and fragrance materials is well-known to those of skill in the art, both for desired scent and appropriate scent impact. For example, when high initial perfume odor impact on fabrics is desired, it can be preferable to select a perfume containing perfume ingredients which are not too hydrophobic. The degree of hydrophobicity of a perfume ingredient can be correlated with its octanol/water partitioning coefficient P, the ratio between its equilibrium concentration in octanol and in water. Thus, a perfume ingredient with a greater partitioning coefficient P is more hydrophobic and a perfume ingredient with a smaller partitioning coefficient P is more hydrophilic; a selection based on the application and intended effect may be made accordingly. For example, in a fabric application, the preferred perfume ingredients may have an octanol/water partitioning coefficient P of about 1,000 or smaller.

[0098] Highly preferred materials of this class of fragrances and perfumes are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0099] Antimicrobials and Preservatives

[0100] Optionally, antimicrobials or preservatives can be added to the present invention. Typical concentrations for biocidal effectiveness of these compounds may range from about 0.001% to about 0.8%, preferably from about 0.005% to about 0.3%, and more preferably from about 0.01% to 0.2% of the usage composition. The corresponding concentrations for the concentrated compositions are from about

0.003% to about 2%, preferably from about 0.006% to about 1.2%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 0.8% of the concentrated compositions.

[0101] Preservatives are especially preferred when organic compounds that are subject to microorganisms are added to the compositions of the present invention, especially when they are used in aqueous compositions. When such compounds are present, long term and even short-term storage stability of the compositions and formulations becomes an important issue since contamination by certain microorganisms with subsequent microbial growth often results in an unsightly and/or malodorous solution. Therefore, because microbial growth in these compositions and formulations is highly objectionable when it occurs, it is preferable to include a solubilized water-soluble, antimicrobial preservative, which is effective for inhibiting and/or regulating microbial growth in order to increase storage stability of the preferably clear and often aqueous compositions and formulations of the present invention.

[0102] Typical microorganisms that can be found in laundry products include bacteria, for example, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (cereus group) and *Bacillus sphaericus*, and fungi, for example, *Aspergillus ustus*. *Bacillus sphaericus* is one of the most numerous members of *Bacillus* species in soils. In addition, microorganisms such as *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are found in some water sources, and can be introduced during the preparation of aqueous solutions of the present invention. It is preferable to use a broad spectrum preservative, for example, one that is effective on both bacteria (both gram positive and gram negative) and fungi. A limited spectrum preservative, for example, one that is only effective on a single group of microorganisms, for example, fungi, can be used in combination with a broad spectrum preservative or other limited spectrum preservatives with complimentary and/or supplementary activity. A mixture of broad spectrum preservatives can also be used. Antimicrobial preservatives useful in the present invention can be biocidal compounds, that is, substances that kill microorganisms, or biostatic compounds, that is, substances that inhibit and/or regulate the growth of microorganisms. Preferred antimicrobial preservatives include those that are water-soluble and are effective at low levels. In general, the water-soluble preservatives that may be used include organic sulfur compounds, halogenated compounds, cyclic organic nitrogen compounds, low molecular weight aldehydes, quaternary compounds, dehydroacetic acid, phenyl and phenoxy compounds, and mixtures thereof. Examples of preservatives useful in the present invention include, but are not limited to, the short chain alkyl esters of p-hydroxybenzoic acid (commonly known as parabens); N-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl) urea (also known as 3,4,4-trichlorocarbanilide or triclocarban); 2,4,4-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenyl ether, commonly known as triclosan; a mixture of about 77% 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and about 23% 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, a broad spectrum preservative available from the Rohm and Haas Company as a 1.5% aqueous solution under the trade name KATHON CG; 5-bromo-5-nitro-1,3-dioxane, available from Henkel Corporation under the trade name BRONIDOX L; 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol, available from Inolex Chemical Company under the trade name BRONOPOL; 1,1-hexamethylenebis(5-p-(chlorophenyl)biguanide) (commonly known as chlorhexidine) and its salts, for example, with acetic and digluconic acids; a 95:5 mixture of 1,3-

bis(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione and 3-butyl-2-iodopropynyl carbamate, available from Lonza Inc. under the trade name GLYDANT Plus; N-[1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)2,5-dioxo-4-imidazolidinyl]-N,N'-bis(hydroxy-methyl) urea, commonly known as diazolidinyl urea, available from Sutton Laboratories, Inc. under the trade name GERMALL II; N,N'-methylenbis-[N'-(1-(hydroxymethyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-imidazolidinyl)]urea] (commonly known as imidazolidinyl urea), available, for example, from 3V-Sigma under the trade name ABIOL, from Induchem under the trade name UNICIDE U-13, and from Sutton Laboratories, Inc. under the trade name GERMALL 115; polymethoxy bicyclic oxazolidine, available from Huls America Inc. under the trade name NUOSEPT; formaldehyde; glutaraldehyde; polyaminopropyl biguanide, available from ICI Americas, Inc. under the trade name COSMOCIL CQ or from Brooks Industries Inc. under the trade name MIKROKILL dehydroacetic acid; and mixtures thereof. In general, however, the preservative can be any organic preservative material which is appropriate for the application, for example, in a laundry application such preservative will preferably not cause damage to fabric appearance, for example, discoloration, coloration, or bleaching of the fabric. If the antimicrobial preservative is included in the compositions and formulations of the present invention, it is preferably present in an effective amount, wherein an "effective amount" means a level sufficient to prevent spoilage or prevent growth of inadvertently added microorganisms for a specific period of time. Preferred levels of preservative are from about 0.0001% to about 0.5%, more preferably from about 0.0002% to about 0.2%, further preferably from about 0.0003% to about 0.1%, of the composition. Optionally, the preservative can be used at a level which provides an antimicrobial effect on the treated fabrics.

[0103] The composition may suitably use an optional solubilized, water-soluble antimicrobial active, useful in providing protection against organisms that become attached to the treated material. The free, uncomplexed antimicrobial, e.g., antibacterial, active provides an optimum antibacterial performance. Sanitization of fabrics can be achieved by the compositions of the present invention containing, antimicrobial materials, e.g., antibacterial halogenated compounds, quaternary compounds, and phenolic compounds. Some of the more robust antimicrobial halogenated compounds which can function as disinfectants/sanitizers as well as finish product preservatives, and are useful in the compositions of the present invention include 1,1'-hexamethylene bis(5-(p-chlorophenyl)biguanide), commonly known as chlorhexidine, and its salts, e.g., with hydrochloric, acetic and gluconic acids. The digluconate salt is highly water-soluble, about 70% in water, and the diacetate salt has a solubility of about 1.8% in water. When chlorhexidine is used as a sanitizer in the present invention it can typically be present at a level from about 0.001% to about 1.0%, preferably from about 0.002% to about 0.3%, and more preferably from about 0.01% to about 0.1%, by weight of the usage composition. In some cases, a level from about 1% to about 2% may be needed for virucidal activity. Other useful biguanide compounds include COSMOCIL CQ, VANTOCIL IB, including poly (hexamethylene biguanide) hydrochloride. Other useful cationic antimicrobial agents include the bis-biguanide alkanes. Usable water soluble salts of the above are chlorides, bromides, sulfates, alkyl sulfonates such as methyl sulfonate and ethyl sulfonate, phe-

nylsulfonates such as p-methylphenyl sulfonates, nitrates, acetates, gluconates, and the like. Non-limiting examples of useful quaternary compounds include: (1) benzalkonium chlorides and/or substituted benzalkonium chlorides such as commercially available BARQUAT (available from Lonza), MAQUAT (available from Mason), VARIQUAT (available from Witco/Sherex), and HYAMINE (available from Lonza); (2) dialkyl quaternary such as BARDAC products of Lonza, (3) N-(3-chloroallyl) hexaminium chlorides such as DOWICIDE and DOWICIL available from Dow; (4) benzethonium chloride such as HYAMINE 1622 from Rohm & Haas; (5) methylbenzethonium chloride represented by HYAMINE 10X supplied by Rohm & Haas, (6) cetylpyridinium chloride such as Cepacol chloride available from Merrell Labs.

[0104] Preferred antimicrobial compounds for use herein include quaternary ammonium compounds containing alkyl or substituted alkyl groups, alkyl amide and carboxylic acid groups, ether groups, unsaturated alkyl groups, and cyclic quaternary ammonium compounds, which can be chlorides, dichlorides, bromides, methylsulphates, chlorophenates, cyclohexylsulphamates or salts of the other acids. Among the useful cyclic quaternary ammonium compounds are the following:—alkylpyridinium chlorides and/or sulphates, the alkyl group being preferably cetyl, dodecyl or hexadecyl group;—alkylisoquinolyl chlorides and/or bromides, the alkyl group being preferably dodecyl group. Particularly suitable quaternary ammonium compounds for use herein include alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride, octyl decyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, dioctyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, alkyl dimethyl ammonium saccharinate, cetylpyridinium and mixtures thereof.

[0105] Highly preferred materials of this class of antimicrobials and preservatives are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0106] Dyes and Colorants

[0107] Optionally, dyes and colorants can be added to the present invention. Typical concentrations of these compounds may range from about 0.001% to about 0.8%, preferably from about 0.005% to about 0.3%, and more preferably from about 0.01% to 0.2% of the usage composition.

[0108] Colorants and dyes, especially bluing agents, can be optionally added to the compositions of the present invention for visual appeal and performance impression. When colorants are used, they may be used at extremely low levels to avoid fabric staining. Preferred colorants for use in the present compositions include highly water-soluble dyes, for example, LIQUITINT dyes available from Milliken Chemical Company. Non-limiting examples of suitable dyes are LIQUITINT Blue HP, LIQUITINT Blue 65, LIQUITINT Patent Blue, LIQUITINT Royal Blue, LIQUITINT Experimental Yellow 8949-43, LIQUITINT Green HMC, LIQUITINT Yellow II, and mixtures thereof. Any dye can be used in the compositions of the present invention, but nonionic dyes are preferred to decrease interaction with the zeta potential

modifier and/or with the dye transfer inhibitor employed in combination with the inventive compositions. Useful acid dyes include: Polar Brilliant Blue and D&C Yellow #10, both supplied by Hilton Davis Chemical Company. Non-ionic LIQUITINT dyes supplied by Milliken Chemical Company are also useful.

[0109] Suitable colors include, but are not limited to, Acid Black 1, Acid Blue 3, Acid Blue 9 Aluminum Lake, Acid Blue 74, Acid Green 1, Acid Orange 6, Acid Red 14 Aluminum Lake, Acid Red 27, Acid Red 27 Aluminum Lake, Acid Red 51, Acid Violet 9, Acid Yellow 3, Acid Yellow 3 Aluminum Lake, Acid Yellow 73, Aluminum Powder, Basic Blue 6, Basic Yellow 11, Carotene, Brilliant Black 1, Bromocresol Green, Chromium Oxide Greens, Curry Red, D&C Blue No. 1 Aluminum Lake, D&C Blue No. 4, D&C Brown No. 1, D&C Green No. 3 Aluminum Lake, D&C Green No. 5, D&C Orange No. 4 Aluminum Lake, D&C Red No. 6, D&C Red No. 6 Aluminum Lake, D&C Violet No. 2, D&C Yellow No. 7, D&C Yellow No. 11, D&C Blue No. 1, FD&C Yellow No. 5 Aluminum Lake, iron oxides, Pigment Orange 5, Pigment Red 83, Pigment Yellow 73, Solvent Orange 1, Solvent Yellow 18, ultramarines, and zinc stearate.

[0110] Highly preferred materials of this class of dyes and colorants are those that do not effectively bind to or permanently dye or color fabrics treated by use of the invention compositions, nor cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0111] Viscosity Control Agents

[0112] Optionally added viscosity control agents can be organic or inorganic in nature and may either lower or raise the viscosity of the formulation. Examples of organic viscosity modifiers to lower viscosity are aryl carboxylates and sulfonates (for example including, but not limited to benzoate, 2-hydroxybenzoate, 2-aminobenzoate, benzenesulfonate, 2-hydroxybenzenesulfonate, 2-aminobenzene-sulfonate), fatty acids and esters, fatty alcohols, and water-miscible solvents such as short chain alcohols. Examples of inorganic viscosity control agents are water-soluble ionizable salts. A wide variety of ionizable salts can be used. Examples of suitable salts are the halides and acetates of ammonium ion and the group IA and IIA metals of the Periodic Table of the Elements, for example, calcium chloride, lithium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, ammonium chloride, sodium bromide, potassium bromide, calcium bromide, magnesium bromide, ammonium bromide, sodium iodide, potassium iodide, calcium iodide, magnesium iodide, ammonium iodide, sodium acetate, potassium acetate, or mixtures thereof. Calcium chloride is preferred. The ionizable salts are particularly useful during the process of mixing the ingredients to make the compositions herein, and later to obtain the desired viscosity. The amount of ionizable salts used depends on the amount of active ingredients used in the compositions and can be adjusted according to the desire of the formulator. Typical levels of salts used to control the composition viscosity are from 0 to about 10%, preferably from about 0.01% to about 6%, and more preferably from about 0.02% to about 3% of the composition.

[0113] Viscosity modifiers (raising) or thickening agents can be added to increase the ability of the compositions to stably suspend water-insoluble articles, for example, perfume microcapsules. Such materials include hydroxypropyl substituted guar gum (such as that available from Rhône-Poulenc Corporation under the trade name JAGUAR HP200), polyethylene glycol (such as that available from Union Carbide Corporation under the trade name CARBO-WAX 20M), hydrophobic modified hydroxyethylcellulose (such as that available from the Aqualon Company under the trade name NATROSOL Plus), and/or organophilic clays (for example, hectorite and/or bentonite clays such as those available from the Rheox Company under the trade name BENTONE 27, 34 and 38 or from Southern Clay Products under the trade name BENTOLITE L; and those described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,103,047 to Zaki, et al., which is herein incorporated by reference). These viscosity raisers (thickeners) can typically be used at levels from about 0.5% to about 30%, preferably from about 1% to about 5%, more preferably from about 1.5% to about 3.5%, and further preferably from about 2% to about 3%, of the composition.

[0114] Highly preferred materials of this class of thickeners and viscosity control and viscosity modifiers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0115] Pearlizing and Opacifying Agents

[0116] Examples of pearlizing or opacifying agents that can optionally be added to the compositions of this invention include, but are not restricted to, glycol distearate, propylene glycol distearate, and glycol stearate. Some of these products are available from Witco Corporation under the KEMESTER trade name.

[0117] Highly preferred materials of this class of pearlizing and opacifying agents are those that do bind to treated fabrics, nor cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as whitening, graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0118] Antioxidants and Sunscreen Materials

[0119] Examples of antioxidants that can optionally be added to the compositions of this invention are propyl gallate, available from Eastman Chemical Products, Inc. under the trade names TENOX PG and TENOX S-1, and dibutylated hydroxytoluene, available from UOP Inc. under the trade name. SUSTANE BHT. Also preferred are antioxidants for providing sun-fade protection for fabrics treated with the composition of the present invention, such antioxidants being described in EP0773982, and incorporated herein by reference. Preferred antioxidants include 2-(N-methyl-N-cocoamino)ethyl-3',5'-di-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxybenzoate; 2-(N,N-dimethyl-amino)ethyl-3',5'-di-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxybenzoate; 2-(N-methyl-N-cocoamino)ethyl-3',4',5'-trihydroxybenzoate; and mixtures thereof, more preferably 2-(N-methyl-N-cocoamino)ethyl-3',5'-di-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxy benzoate. Of these compounds, the butylated

derivatives are preferred in the compositions of the present invention because tri-hydroxybenzoates have a tendency to discolor upon exposure to light. The antioxidant compounds of the present invention demonstrate light stability in the compositions of the present invention. "Light stable" means that the antioxidant compounds in the compositions of the present invention do not discolor when exposed to either sunlight or simulated sunlight for approximately 2 to 60 hours at a temperature of from about 25° C. to about 45° C. Antioxidant compounds and free radical scavengers can generally protect dyes from degradation by first preventing the generation of single oxygen and peroxy radicals, and thereafter terminating the degradation pathways. Not to be limited by theory, a general discussion of the mode of action for antioxidants and free radical scavengers is disclosed in Kirk Othmer, The Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Volume 3, pages 128-148, Third Edition (1978) which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0120] Compositions of the present invention may comprise an organic sunscreen. Suitable sunscreens can have UVA absorbing properties, UVB absorbing properties, or a combination of both. The compositions of the present invention may preferably comprise a UVA absorbing sunscreen actives that absorb UV radiation having a wavelength from about 320 nm to about 400 nm. Suitable UVA absorbing sunscreen actives include dibenzoylmethane derivatives, anthranilate derivatives such as methylantranilate and homomethyl-1-N-acetylantranilate, and mixtures thereof. Examples of dibenzoylmethane sunscreen actives are described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,387,089 to De Polo; and in Sunscreens: Development, Evaluation, and Regulatory Aspects edited by N.J. Lowe and N. A. Shaath, Marcel Dekker, Inc (1990), which are incorporated herein by reference. The UVA absorbing sunscreen active is preferably present in an amount to provide broad-spectrum UVA protection either independently, or in combination with, other UV protective actives that may be present in the composition. Preferred UVA sunscreen actives include dibenzoylmethane sunscreen actives and their derivatives. They include, but are not limited to, those selected from 2-methyldibenzoylmethane, 4-methyldibenzoylmethane, 4-isopropyldibenzoylmethane, 4-tert-butylidibenzoylmethane, 2,4-dimethyldibenzoylmethane, 2,5-dimethyldibenzoylmethane, 4,4'-diisopropylbenzoylmethane, 4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, 2-methyl-5-isopropyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, 2-methyl-5-tert-butyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, 2,4-dimethyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, 2,6-dimethyl-4'-tert-butyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, and mixtures thereof. Preferred dibenzoyl sunscreen actives include those selected from 4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, 4-isopropyldibenzoylmethane, and mixtures thereof. A more preferred sunscreen active is 4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, which is also known as butylethoxydibenzoylmethane or Avobenzone, is commercially available under the names of PARSOL 1789 from Givaudan Roure (International) S. A. (Basel, Switzerland) and EUSOLEX 9020 from Merck & Co., Inc (Whitehouse Station, N.J.). The sunscreen 4-isopropyldibenzoylmethane, which is also known as isopropyldibenzoylmethane, is commercially available from Merck under the name of EUSOLEX 8020. The compositions of the present invention may preferably further comprise a UVB sunscreen active that

absorbs UV radiation having a wavelength of from about 290 nm to about 320 nm. The compositions may preferably comprise an amount of the UVB sunscreen active that is safe and effective to provide UVB protection either independently, or in combination with, other UV protective actives that may be present in the compositions. The compositions preferably comprise from about 0.1% to about 16%, more preferably from about 0.1% to about 12%, and further preferably from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight, of UVB absorbing organic sunscreen. A wide variety of UVB sunscreen actives are suitable for use herein. Nonlimiting examples of such organic sunscreen actives are described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,087,372 to Toyomoto and U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,073,371 and 5,073,372 both to Turner et al, which are incorporated herein by reference. Preferred UVB sunscreen actives are selected from 2-ethylhexyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate (referred to as octocrylene), 2-phenyl-benzimidazole-5-sulphonic acid (PBSA), cinnamates and their derivatives such as 2-ethylhexyl-p-methoxycinnamate and octyl-p-methoxycinnamate, TEA salicylate, octyldimethyl PABA, camphor derivatives and their derivatives, and mixtures thereof. Preferred organic sunscreen actives include 2-ethylhexyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate (commonly named octocrylene), 2-phenyl-benzimidazole-5-sulphonic acid (PBSA), octyl-p-methoxycinnamate, and mixtures thereof. Salt and acid neutralized forms of the acidic sunscreens are also useful.

[0121] An agent may also be added to any of the compositions useful in the present invention to stabilize the UVA sunscreen and to prevent it from photo-degrading on exposure to UV radiation and thereby maintaining its UVA protection efficacy. Wide ranges of compounds have been cited as providing these stabilizing properties and should be chosen to compliment both the UVA sunscreen and the composition as a whole. Suitable stabilizing agents include, but are not limited to, those described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,972,316 to Robinson; U.S. Pat. No. 5,968,485 to Robinson; U.S. Pat. No. 5,935,556 to Tanner et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,827,508 Tanner et al. which are incorporated herein by reference. Preferred examples of stabilizing agents for use in the present invention include 2-ethylhexyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate (referred to as octocrylene), ethyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl-3,3-diphenylacrylate, ethyl-3,3-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)acrylate, and mixtures thereof.

[0122] Highly preferred materials of this class of antioxidants and sunscreen actives are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0123] The composition of the present invention may preferably deposit from about 0.1 mg/g fabric to about 5 mg/g fabric of the sun-fade actives to reduce the sun fading of the fabric. Treatment of fabric with compositions of the present invention repeatedly, may result in higher deposition levels, which contributes even further to the sun-fading protection benefit.

[0124] Dye Transfer Inhibitors and Dye Fixatives

[0125] The composition can comprise from about 0.001% to about 20%, preferably from about 0.5% preferably to

about 10%, and more preferably from about 1% to about 5% of one or more dye transfer inhibitors or dye fixing agents.

[0126] Compositions and formulations of the present invention can contain ethoxylated amines, amphoterics, betaines, polymers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone, and other ingredients that inhibit dye transfer. Optional dye fixing agents can be cationic, and based on quaternized nitrogen compounds or on nitrogen compounds having a strong cationic charge which is formed in situ under the conditions of usage. Cationic fixatives are available under various trade names from several suppliers. Representative examples include: CROSCOLOR PMF (July 1981, Code No. 7894) and CROSCOLOR NOFF (January 1988, Code No. 8544) ex Crosfield; ENDOSOL E-50 (Feb. 27, 1984, Ref. No. 6008.35.84; polyethyleneamine-based) ex Sandoz; SANDOFIX TPS, ex Sandoz, is a preferred dye fixative for use herein. Additional non-limiting examples include SANDOFIX SWE (a cationic resinous compound) from Sandoz, REWIN SRF, REWIN SRF-O and REWIN DWR Crochet-Beitlich GMBH; Tinofix ECO, Tinofix FRD and Solvent from Ciba-Geigy. Other cationic dye fixing agents are described in "After treatments for Improving the Fastness of Dyes on Textile Fibres", Christopher C. Cook, Rev. Prog. Coloration, Vol. XH, (1982). Dye fixing agents suitable for use in the present invention include ammonium compounds such as fatty acid-diamine condensates, inter alia, the hydrochloride, acetate, methosulphate and benzyl hydrochloride salts of diamine esters. Non-limiting examples include oleyldiethyl aminoethylamide, oleylmethyl diethylenediamine methosulphate, and monostearyl-ethylene diaminotrimethylammonium methosulphate. In addition, the N-oxides of tertiary amines; derivatives of polymeric alkyldiamines, polyamine-cyanuric chloride condensates; and aminated glycerol dichlorohydrins are suitable for use as dye fixatives in the compositions of the present invention. Highly preferred materials of this class of dye transfer inhibitors and dye fixatives are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0127] Chlorine Scavengers

[0128] The compositions of the present invention may optionally comprise from about 0.01%, preferably from about 0.02%, more preferably from about 0.25% to about 15%, further preferably to about 10%, and yet more preferably to about 5% of a chlorine scavenger. In cases wherein the cation portion and the anion portion of the non-polymeric scavenger each react with chlorine, the amount of scavenger can be adjusted to fit the needs of the formulator. Suitable chlorine scavengers include ammonium salts having the formula: $[(R)_3R'N]X$ wherein each R is independently hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $-C_1$ - C_4 substituted alkyl, and mixtures thereof; preferably R is hydrogen or methyl, more preferably hydrogen; R' is hydrogen C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_{10} substituted alkyl, and mixtures thereof. Preferably R is hydrogen and X is a compatible anion. Non-limiting examples include chloride, bromide, citrate, and sulfate; preferably X is chloride. Non-limiting examples of preferred chlorine scavengers include ammonium chloride, ammo-

nium sulfate, and mixtures thereof, preferably ammonium chloride. Other chlorine scavengers include reducing agents such as thiosulfate.

[0129] Highly preferred materials of this class of chlorine scavengers are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0130] Wetting Agents

[0131] The present invention may contain as an optional ingredient from about 0.005% to about 3.0%, and more preferably from about 0.03% to 1.0% of a wetting agent. Such wetting agents may be selected from polyhydroxy compounds. Examples of water soluble polyhydroxy compounds that can be used as wetting agents in the present invention include glycerol, polyglycerols having a weight-average molecular weight from about 150 to about 800, and polyoxyethylene glycols and polyoxypropylene glycols having a weight-average molecular weight from about 200 to about 4000, preferably from about 200 to about 1000, and more preferably from about 200 to about 600. Poxoxyethylene glycols having a weight-average molecular weight from about 200 to about 600 are especially preferred. Mixtures of the above-described polyhydroxy compounds may also be used. A particularly preferred polyhydroxy compound is polyoxyethylene glycol having a weight-average molecular weight of about 400, available from Union Carbide Corporation under the trade name PEG-400.

[0132] Highly preferred materials of this class of wetting agents are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0133] Electrolyte

[0134] Suitable inorganic salts for use as an optional electrolyte in the present compositions include MgI_2 , $MgBr_2$, $MgCl_2$, $Mg(NO_3)_2$, $Mg_3(PO_4)_2$, $Mg_2P_2O_7$, $MgSO_4$, magnesium silicate, NaI , $NaBr$, $NaCl$, NaF , Na_3PO_4 , $NaSO_3$, Na_2SO_4 , Na_2SO_3 , $NaNO_3$, $Na_4P_2O_5$, sodium silicate, sodium metasilicate, sodium tetrachloroaluminate, sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP), $Na_2S_3O_7$, sodium zirconate, CaF_2 , $CaCl_2$, $CaBr_2$, CaI_2 , $CaSO_4$, $Ca(NO_3)_2$, KI , KBr , KCl , KF , KNO_3 , KIO_3 , K_2SO_4 , K_2SO_3 , K_3PO_4 , $K_4(P_2O_7)$, potassium pyrosulfate, potassium pyrosulfite, LiI , $LiBr$, $LiCl$, LiF , $LiNO_3$, AlF_3 , $AlCl_3$, $AlBr_3$, AlI_3 , $Al_2(SO_4)_3$, $Al(PO_4)_3$, $Al(NO_3)_3$, aluminum silicate; including hydrates of these salts and including combinations of these salts or salts with mixed cations e.g. potassium aluminum $AlK(SO_4)_2$ and salts with mixed anions, e.g. potassium tetrachloroaluminate and sodium tetrafluoroaluminate. Salts incorporating cations from groups IIIa, IVa, Va, VIa, VIIa, VIII, Ib, and IIb on the periodic chart with atomic numbers >13 are also useful in reducing dilution viscosity but less preferred due to their tendency to change oxidation states and thus they can adversely affect the odor or color of the formulation or lower weight efficiency. Salts with cations from group Ia or IIa with atomic numbers >20 as well as salts

with cations from the lanthanide or actinide series are useful in reducing dilution viscosity, but less preferred due to lower weight efficiency or toxicity. Mixtures of above salts are also useful.

[0135] Also preferred are quaternary ammonium salts, quaternary alkyl ammonium salts, quaternary dialkyl ammonium salts, quaternary trialkyl ammonium salts and quaternary tetraalkyl ammonium salts wherein the alkyl substituent comprises a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl or higher C_5 - C_{12} linear alkane radical, or combinations thereof. Organic salts useful in this invention include, magnesium, sodium, lithium, potassium, zinc, and aluminum salts of the carboxylic acids including formate, acetate, propionate, pelargonate, citrate, gluconate, lactate, aromatic acids e.g. benzoates, phenolate and substituted benzoates or phenolates, such as phenolate, salicylate, polyaromatic acids terephthalates, and polyacids e.g. oxylate, adipate, succinate, benzenedicarboxylate, benzenetricarboxylate. Other useful organic salts include carbonate and/or hydrogen carbonate (HCO_3^{-1}) when the pH is suitable, alkyl and aromatic sulfates and sulfonates, e.g., sodium methyl sulfate, benzene sulfonates and derivatives such as xylene sulfonate, and amino acids when the pH is suitable.

[0136] Electrolytes can comprise mixed salts of the above, salts neutralized with mixed cations such as potassium/sodium tartrate, partially neutralized salts such as sodium hydrogen tartrate or potassium hydrogen phthalate, and salts comprising one cation with mixed anions.

[0137] Highly preferred materials of this class of inorganic and organic electrolytes are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0138] Generally, inorganic electrolytes are preferred over organic electrolytes for better weight efficiency and lower costs. Mixtures of inorganic and organic salts can be used. Typical levels of electrolyte in the present compositions can be less than about 10%, preferably from about 0.5% to about 5%, more preferably from about 0.75% to about 2.5%, and further preferably from about 1% to about 2% of the inventive composition.

[0139] Enzymes

[0140] Additional desirable adjuncts may be enzymes (although it may be preferred to also include an enzyme stabilizer), including, but not limited to hydrolases, hydroxylases, cellulases, peroxidases, laccases, mannases, amylases, lipases and proteases. Proteases are one especially preferred class of enzymes. Typical examples of proteases include Maxatase and Maxacal from Genencor International, Alcalase, Savinase, and Esperase, all available from Novozymes North America, Inc. See also U.S. Pat. No. 4,511,490 to Stanislawski et al., incorporated herein by reference. Further suitable enzymes are amylases, which are carbohydrate-hydrolyzing enzymes. It may also be preferred to include mixtures of amylases and proteases. Suitable amylases include Termamyl from Novozymes, North America Inc, and Maxamyl from Genencor International Co. Still other suitable enzymes are cellulases, such as those

described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,479,881 to Tai; U.S. Pat. No. 4,443,355 to Murata et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 4,435,307 to Barbesgaard et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 3,983,082 to Ohya et al., incorporated herein by reference. Yet other suitable enzymes are lipases, such as those described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,950,277 to Silver; U.S. Pat. No. 4,707,291 to Thom et al.; U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,296,161 and 5,030,240 both to Wiersema et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,108,457 to Poulou et al., incorporated herein by reference. The hydrolytic enzyme may be present in an amount of about 0.01-5%, more preferably about 0.01-3%, and further preferably about 0.1-2% by weight of the detergent. Mixtures of any of the foregoing hydrolases are desirable, especially protease/amylase blends.

[0141] Highly preferred materials of this class of enzymes are those that do not cause any significant residual odor or color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0142] Bleaching Agents

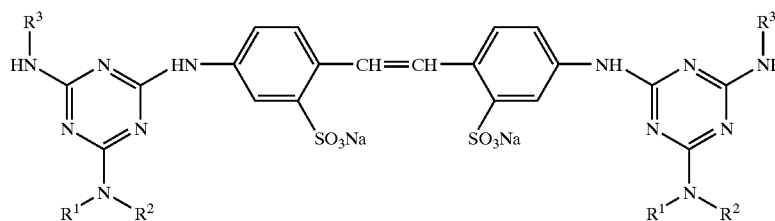
[0143] The compositions of the present invention may optionally comprise from about 0.01%, preferably from about 0.02%, more preferably from about 0.25% to about 15%, further preferably to about 10%, and yet more preferably to about 5% of a bleaching agent. Suitable bleaching agents include chlorine-releasing agents and peroxygen and peroxide-releasing compounds. Alkali metal hypochlorites, including sodium or potassium hypochlorite, are preferred chlorine releasing agents. Peroxygen compounds include

ell et al., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,234,616, 5,130,045 and 5,130,044 (all of which relate to alkanoyloxyphenylsulfonates), all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0144] Highly preferred materials of this class of bleaching agents are those that do not cause any significant fabric damage or color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0145] Brighteners

[0146] Optical brighteners, also referred to as fluorescent whitening agents or FWA's, have long been used to impart whitening to fabrics during the laundering process. These fluorescent materials act by absorbing ultraviolet wave-length light and emitting visible light, generally in the color blue wavelength ranges. The FWA's settle out or deposit onto fabrics during the washing cycle. These include the stilbene, styrene, and naphthalene derivatives, which upon being impinged by ultraviolet light, emit or fluoresce light in the visible wavelength. These FWA's or brighteners are useful for improving the appearance of fabrics, which have become dingy through repeated soilings and washings. Preferred FWA's are Blankophor BBH, RKH and BHC, from Bayer Corporation; and Tinopal 5BMX-C, CBS-X and RBS, from Ciba-Geigy A.G. Fluorescent whiteners most currently used in common laundry compositions generally fall into a category referred to in the art as diaminostilbene disulfonic acid-cyanuric chloride—or DASC—brighteners. These compounds have the general formula



alkali metal salts of percarbonate, perborate and peroxy-monosulfate. Peroxide compounds, including hydrogen peroxide and compounds generating hydrogen peroxide in solution, peroxyacids and precursors to peroxyacids and peroxyimide acids, and metal based oxidants are also suitable. Suitable bleaching agents include preformed peracids and organic peroxides, including alkyl and acyl peroxides such as tertiary butyl peroxide and benzoyl peroxide, and related alkonyl and acyl peroxide and superoxide derivatives of alkyls and arenes. Additionally, an appropriate bleach activator for the active oxygen source or peroxide may be present, such those found in Arbogast et al., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,739,327 and 5,741,437, Alvarez et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,814,242, Deline et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,877,315 and Casella et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,888,419 (which relate to cyanonitrile derivatives), Fong et al., U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,959,187 and 4,778,816, Bolkan et al., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,112,514 and 5,002,691, and Brodbeck et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,269,962 (which relate to alkanoyloxyacetyl derivatives); and Mitch-

[0147] Examples of such DASC fluorescent whiteners include those sold by the Ciba-Geigy Corporation under the trade name "Tinopal", which are substituted stilbene 2,2'-disulfonic acid products, e.g., disodium 4,4'-bis-((4-anilino-6-morpholino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino)stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate (sold as Tinopal AMS); disodium 4,4'-bis-((4-anilino-6-(N-2-hydroxyethyl-N-methylamino)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino)stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate (sold as Tinopal 5BM); disodium 4,4'-bis-((4-anilino-6-(bis(2-hydroxyethyl)amino)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino)stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate (sold as Tinopal UNPA). Another example sold by Bayer Corporation is disodium 4,4'-bis-((4-anilino-6-methylamino)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino)stilbene-2,2'-disulfonate (sold as Phorwite HRS). Examples of suitable FWA's can be found in U.K. Patent Nos. 1,298,577, 2,076,011, 2,026,054, 2,026,566, 1,393,042; and U.S. Pat. No. 3,951,960 to Heath et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,298,290 to Barnes et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,993,659 to Meyer, U.S. Pat. No. 3,980,713 to Matsunaga et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 3,627,758 to Weber et al., incor-

porated herein by reference. See also, U.S. Pat. No. 4,900,468 to Mitchell et al., column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 27, incorporated herein by reference.

[0148] Also preferred are cationic, nonionic, and amphoteric FWA's, such as those cited in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,433,975, 4,432,886, 4,384,121, all to Meyer and 4,263,431 to Weber et al., and incorporated herein by reference. Further examples of suitable FWAs are described in McCutcheon's Vol. 2: Functional Materials, North American Ed., McCutcheon Division, MC Publishing Co., 1995, and Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, 11th volume, John Wiley & Sons, 1994, both of which are incorporated herein by reference. Other examples of fluorescent brightening materials suitable for the invention may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 6,251,303 to Bawendi et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,127,549 to Hao et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,133,215 to Zelger et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,117,189 to Reinehr et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 6,120,704 to Martini; and U.S. Pat. No. 6,162,869 to Sharma et al., incorporated herein by reference.

[0149] Highly preferred materials of this class of brighteners are those that do not cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by drying and/or curing, or after the drying and/or curing step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure.

[0150] In selecting the various components for the fabric treatment composition, most preferred are those that do not cause any significant damage to treated fabrics or cause any significant color change, nor impart any discoloration, such as whitening, graying or yellowing, to the fabrics to which they are applied, either during treatment followed by curing and/or drying, or after the curing and/or drying step followed by normal exposure to the elements, such as air, moisture or sunlight exposure. In particular, dye and colorants should not undergo any significant change from their original color and not stain or discolor the fabrics to which they are applied. Finally, bleaching agents should also not interfere with the function of stain release and/or fabric treatment.

[0151] Formulation

[0152] The compositions of the present invention and/or products incorporating the compositions may be in any form known to those skilled in the art. For example, the compositions and/or products may be in the form of an aerosol, liquid, spray, foam or their encapsulated or coated forms. These compositions and/or products may be neat or releasably absorbed or adsorbed on to a substrate, such as a woven or non-woven filament substrate or packaged within a suitable article of manufacture for convenient handling and dispensing.

[0153] In one aspect of the invention, an article of manufacture may be provided that comprises the inventive composition and a spray dispensing device, an aerosol dispensing device, a liquid dispensing package, a liquid saturated substrate, including for example, but not limited to, a sponge, wipe, towel, woven substrate, non-woven substrate, water soluble or water insoluble sachet, alone or in combination with a liquid dispensing package suitable to dispense the composition directly onto the fabrics to be treated or suitable to release the composition into an enclosed space which contains the fabrics to be treated, any of which

suffices to bring the inventive compositions into direct contact with the fabric. Other suitable devices include those that employ motion, heat, battery and/or mechanical power, or a combination thereof, to dispense their liquid content, here the compositions of the present invention in a liquid carrier, onto the fabrics to be treated. Some simple examples include, but are not limited to, a sealed container holding the liquid composition of the invention in which the sealing means has small orifices through which the liquid may pass, but only effectively when the container is agitated during tumbling in the dryer, or when the container and its liquid contents become sufficiently heated in the dryer so that the increased vapor pressure of the liquid acts to drive dispensing of the contents.

[0154] The spray dispenser can be any of the manually activated means for producing a spray of liquid droplets as is known in the art, e.g., trigger-type, pump-type, electrostatic spray device, non-aerosol self-pressurized, and aerosol-type spray devices. Regardless of the specific spray means employed, it is preferred that at least about 70%, more preferably, at least about 80%, and further preferably at least about 90% of the droplets have a particle size smaller than about 200 microns. Generally in instances where the potential for inhalation by users may occur, it is most preferred that at least about 70%, more preferably, at least about 80%, and further preferably at least about 90% of the droplets have a particle size larger than about 5 microns.

[0155] Suitable trigger-type and pump-type spray devices are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,161,288 to McKinney; U.S. Pat. No. 4,558,821 to Tada et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 4,434,917 to Saito et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,819,835 to Tasaki, all of said patents being incorporated herein by reference. Particularly preferred to be used herein are spray-type dispensers, such as T 8500 commercially available from Continental Spray International, or other manufactures commonly known in the trade. In such a dispenser, the liquid composition can be divided in fine liquid droplets resulting in a spray that is directed onto the fabric surface to be treated. Suitably fine droplet sizes are achieved in such spray-type dispensers owing to the mechanism of operation in which the composition contained in the body of the dispenser is directed through the spray-type dispenser head via energy communicated to a pumping mechanism by the user as the composition is forced against an obstacle, such as a screen grid or a cone or the like, which provides sufficient shock to the stream of the ejected liquid composition to atomize the liquid composition and provide the formation of liquid droplets of sufficiently small size.

[0156] Other suitable dispensers described in the art include devices that are placed within or reversibly mounted to the inside of a tumble dryer to dispense a fine stream or aerosol of a liquid composition contained within. Such devices operate either automatically, for example, by employing a power source such as a battery combined with a pumping means, or are powered or triggered to release composition by the resulting motion of the fabrics or air space generated by the rotation of the dryer drum during use. One such dispenser is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,581,800 to Rodd, et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference. A dispenser responding to a triggering signal or condition, such as increased temperature to trigger release of a com-

position into the drum of a tumble dryer is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,883 to Giblin, et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference.

[0157] Preferably, the aerosol-dispensing device of the present invention can be any of the manually activated devices employing a pressurized propellant as known in the art. The aerosol dispenser may comprise a container which can be constructed of any of the conventional materials employed in fabricating aerosol containers. The dispenser should be capable of withstanding internal pressure in the range of about 20 to about 120 psig, and preferably from about 20 to about 80 psig. An important characteristic concerning the dispenser is that it be provided with a valve member which can permit the composition of the present invention to be dispensed in the form of a spray of very fine, or finely divided, particles or droplets. The aerosol dispenser utilizes a pressurized sealed container from which the composition of the present invention can be dispensed through a special actuator/valve assembly under pressure. The aerosol dispenser is pressurized by incorporating therein a gaseous component generally known as a propellant. Common aerosol propellants, e.g., gaseous hydrocarbons such as isobutane, mixed halogenated hydrocarbons, compressed air, nitrogen, inert gases, and carbon dioxide, are suitable. Highly preferred are those propellants that do not present environmental concerns, such as compressed air, nitrogen, inert gases and carbon dioxide. A more complete description of commercially available aerosol-spray dispensers appears in U.S. Pat. No. 3,436,772, to Stebbins and U.S. Pat. No. 3,600,325 to Kaufman et al., which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0158] The spray dispenser can be a self-pressurized non-aerosol container having a convoluted liner and an elastomeric sleeve. The self-pressurized dispenser can be comprised of an assembly containing a liner and a sleeve comprising a thin, flexible radially expandable convoluted plastic liner of about 0.010 (0.25 mm) to about 0.020 (0.50 mm) inch thick, inside an essentially cylindrical elastomeric sleeve. The liner and sleeve assembly can be capable of holding a substantial quantity of the composition of the present invention and of causing the product to be dispensed. A description of such self-pressurized spray dispensers can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 5,111,971 to Winer and U.S. Pat. No. 5,232,126 to Winer which are incorporated herein by reference. Another suitable type of aerosol spray dispenser is one in which a barrier membrane separates the composition of the present invention from the propellant, as is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,260,110 to Werdning which is incorporated herein by reference. Such a dispenser is available from EP Spray Systems, East Hanover, N.J.

[0159] The spray dispenser can be an unpressurized container with a suitable dispensing orifice or dispensing means, containing the liquid composition, wherein the liquid compositions at normal room temperature and conditions have minimal vapor pressure, but once subject to heat and agitation, as found, for example, in the drum of an automatic tumble drying machine capable of providing sufficient heating and prolonged tumbling action to hence force generate, owing to the action of increasing temperature, an increased internal pressure sufficient within the container to effectively atomize, aerosolize or otherwise dispense the contents of the

resultantly pressurized container in its entirety during the duration of the heated tumble dryer cycle to effect treatment of fabrics within the drum.

[0160] Examples of suitable dispensing packages, include, but are not limited to, a non-woven substrate saturated with the inventive composition, a container containing the inventive composition wherein the container closure is sealed with a liquid pervious membrane that provides for transfer of the composition to the outer surface of the membrane which is brought into contact with the fabrics to be treated either manually or automatically through a mechanized process, such as through use of a rolling dispensing tool, wet pickup roller or some similar device. Further examples include a presaturated flexible substrate or a container with a liquid pervious membrane closure as in the preceding example, that is suitable for placement in the drum of an automatic tumble drying machine and which releases the inventive compositions by intermittent contact with fabrics during the tumbling process.

[0161] Other simple devices may suitably be employed, such as a container or bottle closed with a liquid pervious membrane, examples including a foam, fine screen, fabric, polymer film or membrane with a plurality of fine orifices, that effectively release the inventive composition when shaken, tumble or inverted in the vicinity of the fabric to be treated. Such devices are suitably employed in a tumble dryer, wherein the motion and heat supplied during a typical drying cycle is sufficient to mechanically dispense the invention composition onto the fabric articles to effect protective treatment according to the methods of the present invention. More sophisticated devices, such as dryer additive dispensers, that employ heat, motion, battery or mechanically powered dispensing means, may also be employed. Most advantageous, are those devices that produce a fine mist, spray, foam or effect a continuous or uniform dispensing of the inventive compositions during an automated dryer cycle in order to most uniformly contact the various fabric articles and their corresponding surfaces with the inventive composition.

[0162] Most advantageously, the inventive compositions may be used in conjunction with automatic tumble dryers and clothing refresher devices, such as the Whirlpool Personal Valet™ clothes vitalizing system available from Whirlpool Corporation, which have built-in dispensing means for applying liquid compositions to fabrics during use.

[0163] Methodology

[0164] As further described herein, fabric treatment compositions of the present invention (with at least one zeta potential modifier) can be deposited onto fabrics by a number of methods. Regardless of the technique employed, the critical feature is that the hydrophobic agent, and any fluorocompound employed, become deposited on the fabric surface. Subsequent heating above ambient temperatures but below 100° C. reversibly cures the materials onto the fabric. However, excessive heating above 100° C. is to be avoided as the coating is then bound too tenaciously, leading to decreased overall performance. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the coating should be reversibly bound to effect release of stains and soils in the subsequent wash.

[0165] One particularly preferred technique for consumers is to use the composition during laundering of soiled gar-

ments in conventional washing machines that have between a 25 to 90 liter capacity when filled. The machines typically have a fill/wash cycle of about 12 to 18 minutes duration (the initial volume of water is added), a rinse cycle of about 2 to 5 minutes duration (sufficient water added to disperse the soil and detergent and other laundry additives, and a spin cycle of about 10 to 20 minutes duration. Between the wash, rinse and spin cycles the introduced water is drained. These selected cycles are to be distinguished from the overall wash cycle itself, which encompasses all these sequential cycles or steps in the complete wash process provided by a conventional automatic washing machine.

[0166] When detergent is used, the inventive fabric treatment composition preferably includes at least one zeta potential modifier. In one variation, a composition containing the fluoropolymer, hydrophobic agent, and zeta potential modifier is added anytime during the wash, e.g., along with the detergent at the washing cycle. Alternatively, a composition containing the fluoropolymer and hydrophobic agent, but not a zeta potential modifier, is added with the detergent at the wash stage and thereafter, the zeta potential modifier, which is present in commercial fabric softener which contains cationic surfactant, becomes incorporated when the fabric softener is added to the washing machine during the rinse cycle.

[0167] When a commercial product is formulated so as to provide the role of detergent in addition to the method of imparting stain and soil resistance according to the method of the current invention, i.e., such that the formulated product contains additional optional adjuncts such as surfactants, builders, fluorescent whitening agents, enzymes and the like, have minimal impact on the active ingredients that impart stain and soil resistance, the inventive compositions can be added during the initial fill/wash cycle of a washing machine in which the cleaning and protective methods of the current invention may be practiced. This method is especially preferred, as the consumer does not need to further intervene in the automated laundry process.

[0168] An effective amount of the composition of the present invention can be sprayed or applied directly onto fabrics, particularly clothing. When the composition is sprayed or applied directly onto fabric, an effective amount can be deposited onto the fabric without causing saturation of the fabric, typically from about 10% to about 85%, preferably from about 15% to about 65%, and more preferably from about 20% to about 50%, by weight of the fabric. The amount of active that can be typically sprayed or applied directly onto the fabric is from about 0.1% to about 4%, preferably from about 0.2% to about 3%, and more preferably from about 0.3% to about 2% of the fabric. The treated fabric can then be tumble-dried in a standard clothes dryer and/or be ironed at the normal ironing temperature to effect curing. Alternatively, the treated fabric can be allowed to dry at ambient temperature, and the curing effected by a later heating step supplied by tumble-drying in a standard clothes dryer and/or ironed at the normal ironing temperature to effect curing. Alternatively, the treated fabric can be subjected to radiant energy, such as from the sun or infrared generating heat source, or to microwave energy, such as from a microwave dryer or microwave generating device, to effect curing of the applied composition. The treated fabric may simultaneously be dried and heated in one step to effect curing of the composition on the fabric, or these operations

optionally conducted in separate steps, providing that the heating step is performed subsequent to the drying step if conducted separately. Alternately, the untreated fabric can be treated with the invention compositions simultaneously with exposure to heat, such as for example in the drum of a drying machine, to effective deposition of the treatment onto the fabrics and curing of the thus treated fabric all in one step. In one embodiment, this could be achieved during the normal drying process of treating wet laundry directly with the inventive compositions, or in an alternatively embodiment, achieved by heating dry laundry directly with the inventive compositions, wherein the direct treatment of the textiles with the inventive composition is achieved by dispensing the liquid composition into the interior dryer air space following any other of, or combinations of, methods described herein.

[0169] Similarly, an effective amount of the composition can be aerosolized and applied onto fabrics, particularly clothing, by means of a clothes revitalizing device, such as the Whirlpool PERSONAL VALET system distributed by the Whirlpool Corporation, located at 2000 N. M-63, Benton Harbor, Mich. 49022-2692. When used in such a revitalizing device, the present composition can be combined with the revitalizing solution normally employed in the device, being combined in any desired ratio by volume, or substituted entirely in place of the revitalizing solution in order to effect treatment by use of composition of the present invention. An effective amount of the composition can be automatically metered and aerosolized to effect its deposition onto the clothes contained within the revitalizing device. A drying step subsequently performed by the revitalizing device equipped with an air blower and source of heat, or a source of heated air automatically follows the deposition step in order to complete treatment of the fabrics treated therein by the composition.

[0170] An effective amount of the present composition can also be soaked with fabric and then optionally washed before tumble drying, ironing or tumble-drying with optional ironing. In this aspect of the invention, an acceptable method of delivery is to add the composition to a separate soak or treatment cycle performed in a washing machine or other suitable container with or without agitation, such as hand-soaking of fabrics performed in a sink, bucket or other such container, in which the composition of the present invention is added to water present with sufficient agitation to uniformly mix the composition with the water to insure effective dispersal or dissolution of the composition to create a uniform dispersion or solution for subsequent treatment of the fabrics. The order of mixing can be in any order, that is, the composition can be added to water to effect dilution or water can be added to the composition to effect dilution after the composition is first introduced into a washing machine or other suitable container. In this aspect of the invention, it is preferable that the composition is first mixed with water to effect dilution in either scenario described above before fabrics are exposed to the diluted composition in order to effect the most uniform treatment possible. Subsequent agitation of the diluted composition and the fabrics is not generally required, although if preformed in a washing machine such agitation is generally provided during the wash cycle. Some newer washing machines, however, provide for a timed soaking cycle with no agitation or with intermittent agitation. Following such treatments, fabrics can be drained of excess fluid and then

dried at a temperature less than 100° C. or optionally ironed at appropriate heat settings. An available option is to rinse with fresh water and/or wash the soaked fabrics, followed by tumble-drying at less than 100° C. or optionally ironing at appropriate heat settings.

[0171] In a further aspect of the invention, an effective amount of the composition can be added to the standard wash cycle of an automatic washing machine and/or tumble-dried with optional ironing. It is also a further option to add the invention to the standard wash cycle and optionally rinse the fabrics prior to drying at less than 100° C. with optional ironing. In these aspects of the invention, the composition may be combined with any laundry additive, a detergent, completely substitute the detergent, or additional surfactant and builders added to replace the detergent. In still another aspect of the invention, an effective amount of the composition can be added to the standard rinse or separate part of the rinse cycle and/or tumble-dried with optional ironing. In this aspect of the invention, the composition may be combined with fabric softener or other rinse additive. When added to the wash or rinse cycle, a variety of addition devices may also be used. Many washing machines contain additive dispensers for laundry additives such as bleach or fabric softener. Other devices are known in the art to add liquids to the wash cycle and/or to release them into the rinse cycle. In addition, water soluble pouches, nonwoven pouches, powders and tablets may be used.

[0172] Another embodiment of this invention is to treat a non-woven and/or woven carrier article with the inventive composition. A further embodiment of this method is to add a fragrance to the carrier article. The carrier article is maintained in a moist state until added to the dryer with articles to be treated. It is preferred that the carrier article remains moist to facilitate the transfer of the composition to the treated garments. This method is especially effective on delicate articles including, but not limited to, silk, wool, linen where excessive heat may cause unwanted effects. Furthermore, this method allows for the economical treatment of limited article loads or those containing articles that should not be immersed or exposed to large volumes of liquid.

[0173] When the present composition is added to the water present in a washing machine or water present in some other suitable container for soaking or hand-washing of fabrics, an effective amount can be present to effect deposition of the composition onto the fabric. The effective amount for a first treatment operation performed on a previously untreated fabric is typically from about 0.01% to about 10%, preferably from about 0.1% to about 5%, and more preferably from about 0.1% to about 2% of the composition to weight of the fabric present, wherein the ratio of the weight of dry fabric to the weight of water can be within a value between a ratio of 1:100 and 1:1, respectively, of the ratio of the dry fabric weight to water weight present.

[0174] Irrespective of the method of application employed to effect treatment of articles, a curing step is employed to complete treatment according to the methods of the present invention. Suitable curing step includes drying the articles treated with compositions according to the present invention at a temperature above ambient, but less than about 100° C. Also suitable is heated drying, that is heating the article above ambient temperatures, by such means including, but

not limited to ironing, steaming, blow drying, drying under a heat lamp, drying near a radiative source of heat, or machine drying in a dryer of the treated articles following treatment with compositions of the present invention. Curing may also be effected by drying, following by a heating step wherein the treated dried articles are subsequently heated above ambient temperature for a time sufficient to effect treatment according to the methods of the present invention.

[0175] Following the first use of the composition of the present invention to treat a fabric, subsequent treatment of the fabric may be repeated in similar fashion by any or all means described above using amounts of the composition at the preferred first treatment level, or more preferably at a lower level, or maintenance level, sufficient to replenish material on the fabric that may be lost due to wear or subsequent washing after the first treatment. In general, the level of the present composition required to effectively treat a fabric in order to obtain desirable benefits are greater for the first treatment using previously untreated fabrics than for fabrics that have previously been treated using the present composition. Thus, subsequent, repeated treatments may generally require significantly lower amounts of the composition to effectively replenish material present on the fabric and to maintain the desirable benefits obtained with the first treatment performed. Subsequent, or maintenance, levels of the composition to be used to maintain the desired benefits exhibited by previously treated fabric is typically from about 0.001% to about 5%, preferably from about 0.01% to about 2%, and more preferably from about 0.01% to about 1%, by weight of the composition to weight of the water present, wherein the ratio of the weight of dry fabric to the weight of water is preferably within a value between a ratio of 1:100 and 1:1, respectively, of the ratio of the dry fabric weight to water weight present.

[0176] In still a further aspect of the invention, an effective amount of the composition can be added to a standard tumble-dryer with optional ironing. The composition may be used alone in any dryer delivery device, such as a nonwoven or sponge, or combined with fabric softener sheets, home dry cleaning devices, or other dryer device. Thus, another product form is a composition of the present invention (for example, a paste) suitable for coating onto, and delivery from, a substrate e.g. a flexible sheet or sponge or a suitable dispenser (such as a container having apertures therein, for example) during a tumble dryer cycle. A method of use is to add or release the present composition into the rinse water. When using an aqueous, solid, powder, foam, gel, pouch, tablet or sheet composition for treating fabric in the rinse step, an effective amount of active of the inventive composition can optionally contain fabric softener actives, perfume, electrolytes, chlorine scavenging agents, dye transfer inhibiting agents, dye fixative agents, phase stabilizers, chemical stabilizers including antioxidants, silicones, antimicrobial actives and/or preservatives, chelating agents, aminocarboxylate chelating agents, colorants, enzymes, brighteners, soil release agents, or mixtures thereof.

[0177] In still a further aspect of the invention, textiles treated with the compositions of the present invention, particularly delicate fabrics, fabrics composed of natural fibers including, but not limited to fur, wool or silks, fabrics comprising inclusions, panels, or mixed woven or non-woven compositions of heat sensitive natural or synthetic

fibers including, but not limited to elastomeric materials such as rubber, SPANDEX, polyacetate, vinyl and nylon, may be so treated with the compositions of the present invention by any of the means described herein and allowed to dry under ambient conditions without the application of heat in order to prevent shrinking, dimensional distortion, wrinkling, creasing or other such deleterious effects that may be the result of applying heat to the wet textiles or heating the wet textiles sufficiently and for sufficient time to reduce them to an essentially dry state. Advantageously, such fabrics treated by the compositions of the present invention and allowed to dry under ambient conditions, may subsequently be exposed to a heat source to effect curing of the composition in order to obtain the full benefits of the treatment. Such dry fabrics subsequently exposed to a heat source including, but not limited to heating in an automatic dryer, or contact with steam, an iron, heated air from a blow dryer or other heat source, will not suffer from the deleterious effects noted herein that are commonly seen when such delicate fabrics are dried by heating to dryness starting from a substantially wet state. In this aspect of the invention, the time of exposure to a heat source required by textiles treated by the composition of the present invention and allowed to dry under ambient conditions, may be substantially reduced compared to the time of exposure to a heat source required if such textiles treated by the composition are brought to dryness directly from a wet state. Such reduced time of exposure to a heat source is beneficial to reduce such deleterious effects noted above for many textiles, particularly those labeled as delicate or dry-clean only textiles.

[0178] Drying is a function of both temperature and time. Effective drying can be achieved either by exposing treated garments to effectively higher drying temperatures for a shorter time, or exposing treated garments to effectively longer drying times with correspondingly lower drying temperatures. Preferred temperature and drying times are typically provided by selected cycles of commercially available automatic dryers under normal, permanent press and delicate cycle selections. Highly preferred are cycle selections that provide a short cooling down period with continued tumbling to provide for reduced wrinkling of tumbled fabrics, although this is not a requirement for treatment of fabrics treated by the compositions of the present invention. Drying the fabric at a temperature above 45° C. is preferred.

[0179] The inventive composition can be applied by any of the above methods. In one method of use, the composition can be first applied at a high effective amount to give untreated fabrics the beneficial properties. Subsequent treatment of the same fabrics can be applied at a lower maintenance effective amount. The compositions and articles of the present invention which contain a fabric improving active can be used to treat fabrics, garments, and the like to provide at least one of the following fabric care benefits: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention, and/or fabric shrinkage reduction.

[0180] Concentrated compositions comprise a higher level of fabric active, typically from about 1% to about 99%, preferably from about 2% to about 65%, and more preferably from about 3% to about 25%, by weight of the concentrated fabric care composition. Concentrated compositions are used in order to provide a less expensive product.

The concentrated product can be used undiluted or diluted by about 1,000,000%, more preferably by about 25,000%, and even more preferably by about 5000% of the composition, by addition by weight of water.

[0181] The compositions of the present invention can also be used as ironing aids. An effective amount of the composition can be sprayed onto fabric and the fabric can be ironed at the normal ironing temperature recommended by the fabric label instruction guide. The fabric can be sprayed with an effective amount of the composition, allowed to dry and then ironed, or sprayed and ironed immediately to effect curing.

[0182] In a still further aspect of the invention, the present composition can be sprayed and/or misted onto fabrics and/or entire garments in need of de-wrinkling and/or other fabric care benefits in a manner such that excessive amounts of the fabric/garment care composition are prevented from being released to the open environment, provided in association with instructions for use to ensure that the consumer applies at least an effective amount of fabric improving active and/or fabric care composition, to provide the desired garment care benefit. Any spraying mechanism and/or misting mechanism can be used to apply the fabric care composition to fabrics and/or garments. One distribution of the garment care composition can be achieved by using a fog form. The mean particulate diameter size of the fabric care composition fog can be from about 5 microns to about 200 microns, preferably from about 5 microns to about 100 microns, and more preferably from about 10 microns to about 50 microns. The wash or rinse water should contain typically from 0.01 to 1 g of fluoropolymer per liter of wash water and from 0.01 to 1 g of hydrophobic agent per liter of wash water. The especially preferred levels of the inventive composition are from 0.01 to 0.5 g of fluoropolymer per liter of wash water and from 0.01 to 0.5 g of hydrophobic agent per liter of wash water. After treatment with an initial level of the composition, a maintenance level of present composition may be sufficient to maintain the properties. Desirable maintenance levels of the inventive composition can be from 0.01 to 0.2 g of fluoropolymer per liter of wash water and from 0.01 to 0.2 g of hydrophobic agent per liter of wash water. Especially preferred levels of the inventive composition might be from 0.01 to 0.1 g of fluoropolymer per liter of wash water and from 0.01 to 0.1 g of hydrophobic agent per liter of wash water.

[0183] The present invention also relates to a method of using an aqueous or solid, preferably powder or granular, composition to treat the fabrics in the wash cycle, with such compositions comprising the fabric protecting actives, and optionally, surfactants, builders, perfume, chlorine scavenging agents, dye transfer inhibiting agents, dye fixative agents, dispersants, detergent enzymes, heavy metal chelating agents, suds suppressors, fabric softener actives, chemical stabilizers including antioxidants, silicones, antimicrobial actives and/or preservatives, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, optical brighteners, colorants, and the like, or mixtures thereof. Depending on the selection of optional ingredients, such as the level and type of surfactants, the present composition can be used as a wash additive composition (when the surfactant level is low) or as a laundry detergent, which also has additional fabric care benefits. It is preferable that the treatment be performed in accordance

with the instructions for use, to ensure that the consumer knows what benefits can be achieved, and how best to obtain these benefits.

[0184] The present invention also relates to a method for treating fabric in the drying step, comprising an effective amount of the fabric protecting actives of the present invention and, optionally, fabric softener actives, distributing agent, perfume, fiber lubricants, fabric shape retention polymers, lithium salts, potassium salts, phase stabilizers, chlorine scavenging agents, dye transfer inhibiting agents, dye fixative agents, chemical stabilizers including antioxidants, silicones, antimicrobial actives and/or preservatives, heavy metal chelating agents, aminocarboxylate chelating agents, enzymes, brighteners, soil release agents, and mixtures thereof. The present composition can take a variety of physical forms including liquid, foams, gel and solid forms such as solid particulate forms. One method comprises the treatment of fabric with a dryer-added fabric care composition in combination with a dispensing means such as a flexible substrate that effectively releases the fabric care composition in an automatic tumble clothes dryer. Such dispensing means can be designed for single usage or for multiple uses. Preferably, the composition is applied onto a sheet substrate to form a dryer sheet product.

[0185] Another method comprises the treatment of fabrics with a fabric protection composition of the invention dispensed from a sprayer at the beginning of and/or during the drying cycle. It is preferable that the treatment be performed in accordance with the instructions for use, to ensure that the consumer knows what benefits can be achieved, and how best to obtain these benefits.

[0186] The present invention also relates to a fabric care method of dipping and/or soaking fabrics before the fabrics are laundered, with a pre-wash fabric care composition of

performed in accordance with the instructions for use, to ensure that the consumer knows what benefits can be achieved, and how best to obtain these benefits.

[0187] Devices and methods that may be suitably employed to cure fabrics treated with the methods and compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, an iron, heat lamp, radiator, steam press, blow dryer and tumble dryer, the application of heated air, steam, heated water vapor, exposure to thermal radiation, solar radiation, infrared radiation and microwave radiation, or any combination thereof, in any order thereof

EXAMPLES

[0188] Experiments were conducted to demonstrate the superior effects of the fabric treatment composition and various application techniques that can be employed to effectively deliver the treatment composition. The data as presented in Tables 1-14 were based on compositions that did not include addition of a zeta potential modifier.

[0189] Subsequent data in these examples were based on compositions with at least one zeta potential modifier. As is apparent, compositions with at least one zeta potential modifier were also very effective in imparting the beneficial protective properties to the fabrics treated.

[0190] The examples in Table 1 illustrate compositions of the invention for addition to the laundry. The concentrations are based on the addition of 200 g of the inventive compositions to 2.72 kg of fabric in 69 liters of water in the wash or rinse cycle. Appropriate levels in compositions can be determined for other addition amounts, other levels of fabric, or other wash or rinse volume levels. Examples are given in weight percent as is, i.e., weight percent of the materials as commercially supplied as components in the final composition to achieve 100% by weight.

TABLE 1

	Example									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ZONYL 6700 ^a	34	5	63	27	4	50	20	3	37	15
NALAN GN ^b	34	63	5	27	50	4	20	37	3	15
Balance water and minors ^c	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

^aCationic fluoropolymer emulsion from DuPont Chemicals (20 weight % active)

^bCationic paraffin wax emulsion from DuPont Chemicals (15 weight % active, melting point less than 75° C.)

^cMinors include surfactants, fragrance, fragrance extenders, preservatives, preservatives, anti-static agents, dyes and colorants, viscosity control agents, antioxidants, antifoaming agents, emulsifiers, brighteners, opacifiers, freeze-thaw control agents, shrinkage control agents, and mixtures thereof. (q.s. denotes "quantity sufficient" to achieve 100% by weight of the finished composition in each example noted.)

the invention containing an effective amount of fabric protecting active and, optionally, surfactants, builders, perfume, chlorine scavenging agents, dye transfer inhibiting agents, dye fixative agents, dispersants, detergent enzymes, heavy metal chelating agents, fabric softener actives, chemical stabilizers including antioxidants, silicones, antimicrobial actives and/or preservatives, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, optical brighteners, colorants, and the like, or mixtures thereof. It is preferable that the treatment be

[0191] For fabrics that already exhibit some oil or water repellency, such as those treated with the above compositions, or polyester, polyester/cotton, or other fabrics that are more hydrophobic than cotton, a reduced level of the inventive compositions can be used. The examples in Table 2 illustrate maintenance compositions of the invention for addition to the laundry. The concentrations are based on the addition 200 g of the inventive compositions to 2.72 kg of fabric in 69 liters of water in the wash or rinse cycle.

TABLE 2

	Example									
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
ZONYL 6700	7	3	11	5	1	9	4	1	7	.5
NALAN GN	7	11	3	5	9	1	4	7	1	.5
Balance water and minors	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

[0192] The examples in Table 3 illustrate compositions of the invention with additional actives. The concentrations are based on the addition of 200 g of the compositions to 2.72

kg of fabric in 69 liters of water in the wash or rinse cycle, or applying by one of the other suggested methods, such as spray application, presoak, or treatment in the dryer.

TABLE 3

	Example									
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
ZONYL 6700	10	10	10	10	10	10	3	5	5	20
Nalan GN	30	30	30	30	30	30	37	10	10	5
SURFONIC L12-2.6 ^d	5									
TRITON N101 ^e		10								
Amphoterge K2 ^f			5							
ADOGEN 442 ^g				10						
AMMONYX LO ^h					2					
Magnesium chloride						2				
Sodium Thiosulfate							0.6			
Dibutylated hydroxytoluene ⁱ								0.1		
Balance water and minors	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

^dAlcohol ethoxylate, nonionic surfactant from Huntsman.

^eAlcohol ethoxylate, nonionic surfactant from Union Carbide

^fImidazoline amphoteric surfactant from Lonza

^gDimethyl dehydrogenated tallow ammonium chloride, cationic surfactant from Goldschmidt Chemical.

^hDimethyl amine oxide from Huntsman from Lonza.

ⁱAntioxidant from UOP Inc.

[0193] The examples in Table 4 illustrate compositions of the invention with alternative fluoropolymers and hydrophobic agents.

TABLE 4

	31	32	33	34	35	36
ZONYL 6700 ^j	0.5					1.0
ZONYL 8300 ^k		0.2			0.2	
ZONYL NWG ^l			1.5	2.0		
MICHEM EMULSION 723 ^m		1.0				
MICHEM EMULSION 743 ⁿ			0.5	0.2		
FREEPEL 1225 ^o					2.0	
Balance water and minors	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

^jCationic fluoropolymer emulsion from DuPont Chemicals (20 weight % active)

^kFluoropolymer emulsion from DuPont Chemicals

^lFluoropolymer emulsion from DuPont Chemicals

^mNon-cationic microcrystalline wax emulsion from Michelman

ⁿNon-cationic microcrystalline wax emulsion from Michelman

^oCationic microcrystalline wax emulsion from Noveon

[0194] Contact Angle Measurements

[0195] Contact angle measurements to determine the contact angle of both water and oil on a fabric or textile surface are performed using a goniometer. A goniometer manufactured by Ramé Hart, Inc was used having an illuminated specimen stage assembly and clamping system allowing a test fabric swatch to be positioned horizontally and clamped with sufficient tension to flatten the swatch to prevent sagging but without causing any substantial stretching or deformation of the swatch. The goniometer has an integral eye piece having both horizontal axis line indicator and an adjustable rotating cross line indicator and angle scale, both independently adjustable by separate veniers. It is important that gloves are worn when handling all samples, tools and fabric test swatches and that all glassware, tools, including rules and cutting implements, and syringes used are carefully cleaned with alcohol, such as isopropyl alcohol, and allowed to dry completely before use. Prior to contact angle measurement, test fabric swatch of approximate dimensions of 2.5 cm by 2.5 cm is clamped into place and the vertical venier adjusted to align the horizontal line (axis) of the eye piece coincident to the horizontal plane of the fabric swatch, and the horizontal position of the stage relative to the eye piece positioned so as to view one side of the test fluid droplet interface region at the swatch surface. Test fabric swatches are preferably cut from larger test fabrics at a variety of randomly selected areas of the test fabric to provide multiple samples for testing.

[0196] To determine the contact angle of the test fluid on the fabric swatch, approximately one drop of test fluid in an amount between about 0.010 and about 0.012 grams, is dispensed onto the swatch using a small syringe fitted with a stainless steel needle and a micrometer drive screw to displace a calibrated amount of the test fluid. For water measurements, purified water, for example deionized or distilled water, is employed, and for oil measurements, a vegetable oil, for example soybean oil (available from Bunge North America, St. Louis, Mo.) is suitably employed. Immediately upon dispensing the test fluid, the rotatable venier is adjustment to align the cross line and cross position, that is the intersection of the rotatable cross line and the fixed horizontal line, coincident with the edge of the test

fluid droplet and the swatch, and the cross line angle (rotation) then positioned coincident with the tangent to the edge of the test droplet surface, as imaged by the eye piece. The contact angle is then read from the angle scale, which is equivalent to the tangent angle. The initial contact angle is that angle determined immediately after dispensing the test fluid to the swatch surface, which is taken to be essentially equivalent to time zero (t=0), and subsequent contact angles are then determined at approximately 30 second intervals thereafter to measure either the advancing or receding contact angle of the droplet with respect to the swatch surface, that is either the increasing or decreasing contact angle, respectively.

[0197] Initial contact angles above 30 degrees are indicators of effective water or oil repellancy. Also suitable are contact angles above 30 degrees that persist over relatively significant contact times, for example around 30 seconds to about 2 minutes. Higher initial contact angles of about 30 degrees and greater and persistent contact angles of about 30 degrees and greater are good indicators of effective water or oil repellancy.

[0198] Cotton weave swatches (also referred to as "flags") were treated with different concentrations of ZONYL 6700 for 12 min in 1500 grams of water at 25° C. in the Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed and dried in the dryer for 40 min at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The 5% treatment of fluoropolymer solution is 5% as is based on the weight of cotton fabric in the treatment. This corresponds to a rinse cycle concentration of 1.23 grams per liter of rinse water. The contact angle was measured by putting a drop of water on the flags and measuring after 30 sec and 2 min. The results shown in Table 5 indicate that the fluoropolymer, used by itself even at high levels, is not effective at either water or oil repellancy.

TABLE 5

Composition (weight %)	Contact Angle (water/oil)	
	30 sec	2 min
0% ZONYL 6700	0/0	0/0
1% ZONYL 6700	0/0	0/0
2.5% ZONYL 6700	0/0	0/0
5% ZONYL 6700	0/0	0/0

[0199] Cotton weave swatches were then washed with different concentrations of NALAN GN, an emulsified paraffin wax. The swatches were treated for 12 min. at 25° C. in a Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed to remove excess solution and dried in the dryer for 40 min. at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The 5% treatment of hydrophobic agent solution is 5% as is based on the weight of cotton fabric in the treatment. This corresponds to a rinse cycle concentration of 1.23 grams per liter of rinse water. The contact angle was measured by putting a drop of water on the flags and measuring after 30 sec and 2 min. The results are shown in Table 6 and indicate that the wax emulsion, by itself even at high concentrations, is not effective at oil repellancy.

TABLE 6

Composition (weight %)	Contact angle (water/oil)	
	30 sec	2 min
0% NALAN GN	0/0	0/0
1.0% NALAN GN	0/0	0/0
2.5% NALAN GN	75/0	55/0
5% NALAN GN	100/0	76/0

[0200] Cotton weave swatches were treated at a low 1.0 weight % concentration of ZONYL 6991 with different concentrations of magnesium chloride for 12 min at 25° C. in a Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed to remove excess solution and dried in the dryer for 40 min at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The 1.0 weight % treatment of ZONYL 6991 is 1.0 weight % as is based on the weight of cotton fabric in the treatment. This corresponds to a rinse cycle concentration of 0.25 grams per liter of rinse water. The contact angle was measured by putting a drop of water on the flags and measuring after 30 sec and 2 min. The results shown in Table 7 indicate that the fluoropolymer with high electrolyte concentration exhibits increased water repellency versus ZONYL 6991 used alone for treatment.

TABLE 7

Composition (weight %)	Contact angle (water) 60 sec
1% ZONYL 6991 ^a	0
0% MgCl ₂	
1% ZONYL 6991	50
5% MgCl ₂	
1% ZONYL 6991	100
20% MgCl ₂	

^aCationic fluoropolymer emulsion from DuPont Chemicals

[0201] Cotton weave swatches were treated with different ratios of ZONYL 6700 and NALAN GN for 12 min at 25° C. in a Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed to remove excess solution, rinsed and dried in the dryer for 40 min at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The contact angles with both water and oil droplets were measured after 30 seconds. The results shown in Table 8 indicate that approximately a 4:1 to 1:4 ratio of fluoropolymer to hydrophobic agent is desirable for both optimum oil and water repellency.

TABLE 8

	37	38	39	40	41	42
ZONYL 6700	0.5%	2%	2.5%	3%	3.75%	4.5%
NALAN GN	4.5%	3%	2.5%	2%	1.25%	0.5%
Contact Angle (water) 30 seconds	117	110	112	110	121	52
Contact Angle (oil) 30 seconds	35	103	111	100	112	0

[0202] The examples in Table 9 show that using the inventive composition in the rinse is surprisingly superior to pretreatment with surface finishing treatments employing fluoropolymers that are commercially available for consumer usage. The pretreatment product locks in stains

already on the fabric, while the inventive composition, in contrast, does not hinder removal of existing stains, but surprisingly, further acts to improve stain removal. A variety of stains were applied to untreated fabrics and allowed to age for at least 7 days to mimic the typical consumer delay before washing soiled laundry. The garments were then treated per label instructions using either a commercial consumer surface finishing treatment (SCOTCHGARD) or rinsed in a 5% loading of ZONYL 6991 (Inventive treatment). In both cases, fabric treatment was performed at solution temperatures of 25° C. for 12 minutes, followed by squeezing to remove excess solution and fabrics were then dried in a dryer for 40 minutes at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The stained/treated garments were then washed and rinsed in a commercially available residential washer using a label recommended level of LIQUID TIDE detergent (produced by the Procter & Gamble Company) and dried in a dryer for 40 minutes. Stain removal was judged visually using a 5 point scale where comparing treated and not-treated stained and washed garments where numeric scores were assigned based on the following descriptive scale: 1—Much worse than untreated, 2—Worse than untreated, 3—Equal to untreated, 4—Better than untreated, 5—Much better than untreated.

TABLE 9

Stain Type (a)	Untreated	Inventive Treatment	SCOTCHGARD
Grass	Basis	4	1
Coffee	Basis	4	1
Clay	Basis	3	2
Salad Dressing	Basis	3	3

(a) Stain types include water-based stains (grass, coffee), oil-based stains (salad dressing) and particulate-based stains (clay).

[0203] An experiment was conducted to compare the breathability of fabrics treated with commercially available anti-stain treatments with that of the invention. The porosity of the fabric to liquid water was used as a judge of breathability. The porosity was determined by the ability of the fabric to support a measured weight of a column of water. SCOTCHGARD Protector (3M Company) was used as a representative of commercially available anti-stain treatments, and the SCOTCHGARD treatment was used per the label instructions. 100% cotton weave fabrics were prepared with a 5% wash added loading of the ZONYL 6991 (Inventive treatment, 25° C. wash, hand wrung, dried for 40 minutes in a dryer at 150° F. (65.5° C.)). The sample fabrics were stretched over a 1 in. (2.54 cm) internal diameter plastic tube and a piece of facial tissue was placed on top of the fabric (facing away from the tube). The fabric and tissue were secured to the tube in a watertight fashion by use of a plastic tie. The tube was oriented so that the fabric faced downward. Water was then gradually added to the tube until the tissue showed signs of wetting. The measured quantity of water added before wetting of the tissue was noted and was recorded as the corresponding porosity or breathability value. The results are set forth in Table 10.

TABLE 10

Treatment Detail	Breathability (grams of water in column)
SCOTCHGARD treated side facing away from the water column	0.44
SCOTCHGARD treated side facing toward the water column	16.04
Inventive Treatment	0.12

[0204] The examples in Table 11 demonstrate the preferred transient durability of the inventive treatment, as measured by the slow loss of protection benefit imparted to the treated fabrics, illustrated by the slow loss of water repellency after multiple washes using a commercial detergent, but without subsequent treatment using the inventive compositions. Thus in actual use, fabrics treated using the inventive compositions will resist the build up of the fabric protective film that results from treatment which may otherwise compromise the appearance due to excessive coating and discoloration of the treated fabrics, or which may otherwise compromise the softness and handfeel of the treated fabrics after multiple treatments. Accordingly, fabrics treated using the inventive compositions will eventually lose their fabric protective benefits unless subsequent treatments with the inventive composition are repeated at some regular frequency. Advantageously, subsequent treatments may be employed using lower levels of the inventive composition to maintain the full protective benefits provided to treated fabrics without the undesirable build-up of the treatment on said fabrics. The swatches were treated with a 5% loading of the invention for 12 min at 25° C. in the Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed to remove excess solution and dried in the dryer for 40 min at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The commercially available pants were purchased from Spiegel precoated with TEFLON brand stain resistant coating. Both garments were washed in a residential washing machine with label recommended doses of LIQUID TIDE and subsequently dried in a residential dryer.

TABLE 11

Contact angle using water after 30 sec		
Number of wash cycles	Inventive Treatment	TEFLON treated pants
1	96	117
2	22	112
3	0	110

[0205] Table 12 compares the handfeel of 100% cotton fabrics treated with the inventive treatment and those treated via a commercial application of fluoropolymer (SCOTCHGARD). Thirty respondents were asked to choose the garment with the best handfeel. The table shows the number of times each garment was chosen to have the better handfeel in a blind test. Respondents also indicated garments treated with the inventive treatment were visually less wrinkled than the commercially treated garments.

TABLE 12

	Inventive Treatment	Commercially treated garment
Chosen better handfeel	30	0

[0206] In the following examples, the surprising dependence of adding additional surfactants to the inventive treatment is demonstrated. These surfactants can be added either directly via the formulation, or via added detergent.

[0207] Table 13 shows the dependence of adding nonionic surfactants in addition to the inventive system. The swatches were treated with a 5% loading of the inventive treatment with various amount of surfactant added and exhausted for 12 min at 25° C. in the Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed to remove excess solution. The swatches were then rinsed in water for 5 minutes at 25° C., squeezed to remove excess solution and dried in the dryer for 40 min at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The table reveals the contact angle for fabrics exhausted with a combination of the inventive treatment along with surfactant. It is clearly seen that at levels of nonionic surfactant equal to that supplied by use of a commercial detergent, the repellency is negligible, but surprisingly, there is a critical level at which a fabric protective benefit is still realized. This indicates that in some nonionic surfactant systems, such as those employed by commercial laundry detergents, addition of at least some zeta potential modifier may be further required in order to provide the optimum fabric protective benefit. Conversely, this also demonstrates that the level of use of primarily nonionic surfactant based detergents may be effectively reduced when used for cleaning clothing previously treated using the inventive treatment, as lower levels of the nonionic detergent would be sufficient to effectively clean treated clothing yet maintain, to some extent, the previously existing protective benefit carried by the clothing.

TABLE 13

	43	44	45
ZONYL 6991 (g/l)	0.98	0.98	1.23
Non-ionic surfactant (g/l)	0.11	0.22	0.43
Contact angle water (initial)	100	72	0

[0208] In another example, it was demonstrated that the inventive treatment can also tolerate low levels of anionic surfactants. In Table 14, the swatches were treated with a 5% loading of the inventive treatment with various amount of surfactant added and exhausted for 12 min at 25° C. in the Terg-O-Tometer, then squeezed to remove excess solution and dried in the dryer for 40 min at 150° F. (65.5° C.). The table reveals the resultant contact angles, demonstrating a surprising critical level in which the anionic surfactants can be incorporated. Furthermore, a commercially available laundry detergent was used at 10% and 100% of the recommended dosage. At full usage levels, no repellency is observed, however repellency was observed at the reduced level.

TABLE 14

	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
ZONYL 6991 (g/l)	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23
Anionic surfactant(g/l)	0.026 ^a	0.065 ^a	0.16 ^a	0.65 ^a			
FRESH START					0.043 ^b	0.22 ^b	0.43 ^b
Contact angle water (initial)	82	70	0	0	83	0	0

^aMixture of 77% AEOS and 23% LAS, both anionic surfactants.

^bCommercial laundry detergent from Colgate-Palmolive, containing LAS and alcohol ethoxylate, 10% recommended level

^csee footnote b, 50% recommended level

^dsee footnote b, 100% recommended level

[0211] In the first experiments, six compositions each having the same amounts of fluoropolymers and hydrophobic agents but different amounts of zeta potential modifier (e.g., cationic surfactant in the form of a quaternary ammonium compound) were prepared. The compositions were diluted using water to effective use levels equivalent to 5% by weight of the undiluted compositions. The zeta potential of each composition was measured using two instruments, i.e., from Beckman and Particle Sizing. The compositions were also applied onto cotton fabrics with a U.S. Testing TERG-O-TOMETER water bath that was maintained at 70° F. (21° C.) to which cotton fabric and sufficient amounts of composition to produce a 5% load by fabric weight was attained. The fabric was exposed for 3.5 minutes and then dried in a commercial dryer at 150° F. (65.6° C.) for 50 minutes. The contact angles of water and oil droplets on the dried fabric were initially measured (initial contact angle, or t=0) and measured again 2 minutes later (t=2 min). The results are set forth in Table 15.

TABLE 15

Composition (wt. %)				Composition			Contact Angle		
				Parameters		Zeta Pot.	Zeta Pot.	(t = 0-t = 2 min.)	
No.	ZONYL	MICHEM	ACCOSOF	water*	pH	(mV)**	(mV)***	Water	Oil
	8300(a)	743(b)	550-75(c)						
53	34	51	0	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	-21.2	-9.1	0—0	0—0
54	34	51	2	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	36.5	21.2	116—112	116—116
55	34	51	4	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	45.1	27.9	111—103	115—115
56	34	51	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	51.7	33.6	114—107	118—118
57	34	51	8	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	55.5	36.2	95—89	116—116
58	34	51	10	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	57.9	36.6	70—63	105—105

(a)fluoropolymer 18% active

(b)paraffin 32% active

(c)cationic surfactant 75% active; Methyl bis(tallowamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate

*includes acid addition to adjust composition pH

**5% (by wt. of fabric) equivalent dilution measured by Beckman instrument

***5% (by wt. of fabric) equivalent dilution measured by Particle Sizing instrument.

[0209] Surprisingly, the reduction of surfactant levels in the above examples, though key to the ultimate repellency imparted to the fabric, does not materially affect the final appearance of the washed samples relative to fabrics that were washed at full doses of detergent without the inventive system. Very good cleaning systems can thus be realized at significantly reduced surfactant levels, thereby reducing the overall biological challenge to the environment.

[0210] In the following three sets of experiments, fabric treatment compositions containing fluoropolymers, hydrophobic agents, and zeta potential modifiers-were tested for their effectiveness in enhancing water and oil repellency. Although fragrance and colorant were not added in the compositions tested, these optional components typically would be included in commercial products at amounts of about 0.4% and 0.004%, respectively.

[0212] As is apparent, the formulation containing no zeta potential modifier provided no repellency enhancement. Optimum repellency occurred where the level of this particular zeta potential modifier was between 2-6%; the water repellency decreased when the zeta potential level reached 8% or higher which suggests that too much of the zeta potential modifier may have an adverse effect as well. It is noted that the pH of the compositions were carefully adjusted to 3.60±0.05 for these experiments to minimize experimental variations in the measurement of zeta potential measurement. In practice, the compositions of the present invention may be adjusted to any desired pH as generally formulated for the intended usage and method of application desired for treating textiles and the like. The suitable operating pH range includes from about pH 1 to about pH 13, although the pH may optimally be adjusted to some value within this range to accommodate the stability and function-

ality of any optional adjuncts, such as surfactants or enzymes, for example, that perform best at some selected pH.

[0213] In the second set of experiments, eight identical fabric treatment compositions containing fluoropolymers, hydrophobic agents, and zeta potential modifiers were tested for their effectiveness in enhancing water and oil repellency. They were used with different types of detergents with and without a softener in a commercial washing machine. Specifically, cotton fabric was washed in a commercial washer (69 liter capacity, 6 lb (2.2 kg) ballast, 12 min. wash cycle at 93° F., or 34° C., and 3 min. rinse cycle at 68° F., or 20° C.) and 140.6 grams of one of the eight formations were added in the wash water. The fabric was dried in a drying machine for 50 minutes at 150° F. (66° C.). A primarily anionic surfactant containing detergent (LIQUID TIDE from Procter & Gamble Co.), a nonionic detergent (FRESH START from Colgate-Palmolive Co.), and/or a fabric softener that contained a cationic surfactant (DOWNY from Procter & Gamble) were also added as described herein. The contact angles of water and oil droplets were also measured after the fabric was dried. The procedures employed and the results are set forth in Table 16.

ener was added to either the wash or the rinse cycle. The presence of nonionic detergent yielded effective repellency when it is added to the washing cycle along with the softener as shown in treatment 62. Finally, the presence of predominately anionic detergent appears to disrupt the efficacy of treatment, with the softener added to either the wash (treatment 65) or rinse (treatment 64).

[0215] In a third set of experiments, three different treatment compositions were formulated and their effectiveness in enhancing water and oil repellency was tested in conjunction with either a liquid or dry anionic detergent (LIQUID TIDE or TIDE, respectively, from Procter & Gamble). Each composition had different amounts of zeta potential modifier. The fabrics tested in each case included a combination comprising 70% cotton material and 30% of a cotton/synthetic blend, which is designated p/c. The detergent, when employed, was added in the wash cycle. The treatment composition was added in the rinse cycle and, in one case, fabric softener, which included cationic surfactants, was also added in the rinse cycle.

[0216] It was expected that a small amount of detergent would adhere to the damp fabric following the wash cycle so that the residual detergent would re-dissolve into the water

TABLE 16

Composition (wt %)					Composition	Additional Commercial Products		Contact Angle-Cotton	
ZONYL MICHEM ACCOSOFT					parameters	Added to Washing Machine		(t = 0-t = 2 min.)	
No.	8300(a)	743(b)	550-75(c)	water*	pH	Added to Wash	Added to Rinse	Water	OilT
59	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	none	Downy**	113-93	113-110
60	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Downy**	none	81-64	110-110
61	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Fresh Start	Downy**	88-44	0-0
62	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Fresh Start and Downy**	none	104-104	108-106
63	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Fresh Start	none	0-0	0-0
64	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Liquid Tide	Downy**	0-0	0-0
65	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Liquid Tide and Downy**	none	36-0	15-0
66	37.6	56.4	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Liquid Tide	none	0-0	0-0

(a) fluoropolymer 18% active

(b)paraffin 32% active

(c) cationic surfactant 75% active; methyl bis(tallowamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate

*includes acid addition to adjust composition pH

**Downy usage = 30 g/69 L

[0214] As is apparent, detergent free systems (treatments 59 and 60) yield effective repellency when the fabric soft-

at the beginning of the rinse cycle. The results are presented in Table 17.

TABLE 17

Composition (wt. %)					Composition	Commercial Products Added to Wash (Inventive)		Water Contact Angle		Oil Contact Angle	
	ZONYL	MICHEM	ACCOSOFT		parameters	Treatment weight)		(t = 0–t = 2 min.)		(t = 0–t = 2 min.)	
No.	8300(a)	743(b)	550-75(c)	water*	PH	wash	Rinse	cotton	p/c	cotton	p/c
67	34	51	6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	none	none (219 g)	88–78	97–85	100–96	100–94
						Liquid Tide	none (219 g)	69–45	0–0	0–0	0–0
						Liquid Tide	Downy (219 g)	99–78	102–90	112–112	110–110
68	34	51	10.6	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	none	none (219 g)	109–89	114–106	113–110	115–110
						Liquid Tide	none (219 g)	108–87	100–93	106–106	117–113
						Dry Tide	none (219 g)	103–87	118–106	118–114	114–113
						Liquid Tide	none (219 g)	118–98	112–98	111–104	112–108

TABLE 17-continued

No.	Composition (wt. %)			Composition parameters	PH	Commercial Products Added to Wash (Inventive)		Water Contact Angle		Oil Contact Angle	
	ZONYL	MICHEM	ACCOSOFT			Treatment weight)		(t = 0-t = 2 min.)		(t = 0-t = 2 min.)	
	8300(a)	743(b)	550-75(c)			wash	Rinse	cotton	p/c	cotton	p/c
69	34	51	13.1	balance	3.60 ± 0.05	Liquid Tide	none (177 g)	109-84	112-86	102-98	107-106
						Liquid Tide	none (118 g)	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
						Liquid Tide	none (219 g)	104-94	110-98	108-102	121-118
						Liquid Tide	none (177 g)	100-85	113-103	110-108	111-108
						Liquid Tide	none (118 g)	72-0	102-0	85-55	87-73

(a)fluoropolymer 18% active

(b)paraffin 32% active

(c)cationic surfactant 75% active; methyl bis(tallowamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate

*includes acid addition to adjust composition pH

[0217] As is apparent, the 6% zeta potential modifier composition (No. 1 67) exhibited good repellency performance in the absence of wash added detergent but it exhibited poor repellency performance when detergent was added in the wash. However, the same formulation exhibited good repellency performance when a fabric softener was added to the rinse cycle to increase the amount of cationic surfactant, i.e., zeta potential modifier.

[0218] In addition, increasing the level of the zeta potential modifier (i.e., ACCOSOFT 550-75) to 10.6% in composition 2 68 improved repellency performance when detergent was present in the wash cycle but, even with the increase in zeta potential modifier, repellency performance actually decreased at the lower dose (i.e., 118 g) of treatment composition 2 68 when detergent was present in the wash. This suggests that the amount of zeta potential modifier was not enough to counteract the adverse effects of the anionic surfactants in the detergent. However, when the amount of zeta potential modifier was increased to 13.1%, there was an improvement in repellency performance even at the lower dose (i.e., 118 g) of treatment composition 3 69 when detergent was present.

[0219] In a fourth set of experiments, six different compositions containing a hydrophobic agent were prepared and their effectiveness in enhancing water and oil repellency was tested in conjunction with a zeta potential modifier. Each composition had different sources and amounts of both the hydrophobic agent and the zeta potential modifier. Test fabric swatches composed of either 100% cotton or mixed 50%/50% polyester/cotton (polycotton) blend were washed in a commercial washing machine along with 6 lbs of a mixed polycotton pillow case laundry load as ballast. The compositions of Table 18 were added at the beginning of the 12-minute wash cycle, to about 69 L of wash water containing 100 ppm hardness ions and 1.5 mM (millimolar) bicarbonate, containing the test fabrics and ballast. Wash conditions were a 12 minute wash cycle at a temperature of about 93° F., followed by a rinse cycle at a temperature of about 68° F., followed by spin drying. Test fabrics and ballast were then machine dried together for 50 minutes in a commercial automatic dryer set at a temperature of about 150° F. The test fabrics are removed from the dryer and water contact angles were measured to determine the water repellency properties of the treated fabrics.

[0220] As is apparent, the hydrophobic agent combined with a zeta potential modifier provides a fabric protective benefit to treated fabrics that show an increased contact

angle with respect to water. The fabric protective benefit is particularly exemplified in regards to the initial water contact angle, that is the contact angle determined immediately upon wetting of the fabrics by water (t=0), which indicates the degree of water repellency as well as repellency against any aqueous based material that would otherwise wet or stain the fabric not treated according to the method of the present invention. It is apparent that the fabric protective benefit is provided to natural fabrics, such as cotton, and synthetic fabrics, such as the polyester blend employed here for illustrative purposes.

[0221] As is apparent, any source of the zeta potential modifier combined with the hydrophobic agent is suitable for providing the fabric protective benefit according to the method of the present invention. Treatment with a hydrophobic agent alone as seen in the non-inventive example No. 74 does not result in a protective benefit on either natural or synthetic fabrics. It is also apparent that any source of a zeta potential modifier is suitable in combination with the hydrophobic agent. It is also apparent that any amount of zeta potential modifier, provided that there is at least sufficient zeta potential modifier present to provide for a zeta potential that is positive and greater than zero millivolts, is sufficient for the purpose of providing a fabric protective benefit in combination with the hydrophobic agent. It is also apparent that high levels of zeta potential modifier are not required according to the methods of the present invention to achieve the desired fabric protective benefits. At high levels of zeta potential modifier, generally levels that provide for a zeta potential that is greater than about +150 millivolts, no further increase in the fabric protective benefit is achieved. Without being bound by theory, it appears that the zeta potential modifier when present in compositions of the present invention at a level sufficient to provide a zeta potential of between greater than zero and about +150 mV, is sufficient to provide the fabric protective benefits to both natural and synthetic textiles according to the methods of the present invention.

[0222] Examples No. 76 through 99 in Table 19 represent inventive compositions providing both detergency and cleaning performance in addition to the protective benefits according to the methods of the present invention, and may suitably be employed in a wash liquor treatment.

[0223] It is to be noted that the foregoing examples demonstrate the manner in which the methods of the present invention provide for increased fabric protective benefits,

including, but not limited to improved repellency against water and oil. It is further noted that the benefits with respect to improved repellency against water and oil also pertain to water-base, oil-based stains, respectively, and to particulate stains, and mixtures thereof. The foregoing examples further demonstrate the manner in which the methods of the present

invention provide for improved handfeel to treated fabrics. The foregoing examples also demonstrate the manner in which the methods of the present invention provide improved fabric protective benefits without effectively reducing the breathability of treated fabrics with respect to water or moisture transmission.

TABLE 18

No.	Composition(a) Weight Added (grams)			Commercial Product (a) Weight added (grams) Downy(e)	Fabric Type(f)	Water Contact Angle(g) (Time, seconds)	
	Michem 743(b)	Nalan GN(c)	Accosoft 550-75(d)			t = 0 sec.	t = 30 sec.
70		140			Cotton	123	118
					P/C	126	115
71		140	8.4		Cotton	132	124
					P/C	127	127
72		140		30	Cotton	112	99
					P/C	115	85
73		140	8.4	30	Cotton	111	86
					P/C	95	33
74	140				Cotton	0	—
					P/C	0	—
75	140		25.2		Cotton	71	—
					P/C	81	—

(a) Added to washing machine wash water at start of wash cycle

(b) Non-cationic microcrystalline wax emulsion from Michelman

(c) Cationic paraffin wax emulsion from DuPont Chemicals containing a cationic methacrylate polymer

(d) Cationic surfactant 75% active; Methyl bis(tallowamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate

(e)Downy, a commercial fabric softener produced by Procter & Gamble (recommended for addition to rinse water).

(f) White 100% cotton and gray 50%/50% polyester/cotton (P/C) test swatches

(g) Contact angle measured at indicated time following contact with water droplet to surface of treated test fabric

[0224]

TABLE 19

[illegible]

TABLE 19-continued

Component (weight %)	Composition No.											
	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
Michem 743	75	75	75	75	75							
Nalan GN						75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Zonyl 8300		10										
Zonyl NWG			5	5	5				10			5
Arquad 12-37W							15					
Accosoft 550-75	15	10	15	10	10			10	10	10	10	10
Bio-Soft D-40				2						2		2
(a)												
Bio-Soft TA-2												
(b)												
Bio-Terge AS-40 (c)												
Neodol 25-3S					2							
(d)												
Neodol 25-3 (e)					2							
Neodol 25-9 (f)				2							2	2
Neodol 23-6.5 (g)												
Savinase 12.0L (h)												0.5
Balance water and minors (i)	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

(a) Bio-Soft D-40 Sodium alkylbenzene sulfonate, anionic surfactant available from Stepan Company

(b) Bio-Soft TA-2, Tallow amine ethoxylate, nonionic surfactant available from Stepan Company

(c) Bio-Terge AS-40; Sodium olefin sulfonate, anionic surfactant available from Stepan Company

(d) Neodol 25-3S; Alcohol ethoxylate sulfate; anionic surfactant available from Shell Chemicals

(e) Neodol 25-3; Alcohol ethoxylate, nonionic surfactant available from Shell Chemicals

(f) Neodol 25-9; Alcohol ethoxylate, nonionic surfactant available from Shell Chemicals

(g) Neodol 23-6.5; Alcohol ethoxylate, nonionic surfactant available from Shell Chemicals

(h) Savinase, a protease enzyme available from Novozymes Company

(i) q.s. Quantity sufficient to achieve 100 weight % of final composition

[0225] Further experiments were conducted to illustrate the utility of employing the inventive compositions in a direct application mode, that is a method not requiring fabrics to necessarily be treated using the materials of the invention via a submerged or immersive treatment liquor, but by direct application of compositions to fabrics according to the methods of the present invention. Test fabrics, including white 100% cotton, gray 100% cotton and white 50%/50% polyester/cotton mixed swatches were washed along with a 6 pounds of mixed polyester/cotton pillow case ballast to represent a typical laundry load using the label recommended level of a commercial liquid Tide detergent product. Wash conditions were as follows: a 12 minute wash time with a warm water temperature of about 93° F. with 100 ppm of hardness ions (3:1 Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺ ion ratio) with about 1.5 millimoles of sodium bicarbonate present, following by a normal rinse cycle with cold softened tap water having a temperature of about 68° F. and subsequently a final spin cycle. The entire washed and still damp load containing ballast and the test fabrics was then placed in the drum of a commercially available automatic tumble dryer. An example of the inventive composition, in a quantity corresponding to about 177 grams or about 6 fluid ounces in volume, and having a composition as disclosed as composition number 100 in Table 22, was placed in a plastic cup having a total 8 fluid ounce capacity fitted with a modified lid closure containing about 16 holes of about 1 mm diameter punched uniformly across the surface of the lid for the purpose of dispensing the composition. The dispensing container was then placed on top of the washed and still damp test fabrics

and ballast in an upright position, followed by tumble drying of the load for 50 minutes at a temperature setting of 150° F. until all the fabrics were completely dry to touch. Test fabrics were then removed from the dryer, separated from the ballast and allowed to cool to room temperature.

[0226] Water and oil contact angles were measured to determine both water and oil repellency properties of the treated fabrics, and the results are presented in Table 20 and Table 21.

TABLE 20

Fabric ^a	Replicate ^b	Water Contact Angle (degrees) at Indicated Time ^c				
		0 sec.	30 sec.	60 sec.	90 sec.	120 sec.
P/C	1	125	117	113	105	103
(white)	2	127	125	123	122	121
Cotton	1	132	122	120	118	118
(white)	2	136	128	126	126	125
Cotton	1	127	116	113	112	110
(gray)	2	113	98	93	90	88

^aFabric compositions are 100% Cotton (Cotton) and 50%/50% Cotton/polyester (P/C)

^bOne test swatch per replicate of approximate size 12 inches by 16 inches.

^cFollowing treatment with Composition No. 100 in manner described herein.

[0227]

TABLE 21

Fabric ^a	Replicate ^b	Mineral Oil Contact Angle (degrees) at Indicated Time ^c				
		0 sec.	30 sec.	60 sec.	90 sec.	120 sec.
P/C	1	117	112	110	110	110
(white)	2	118	110	108	105	102
Cotton	1	118	86	80	75	63
(white)	2	113	102	88	80	73
Cotton	1	120	115	112	110	108
(gray)	2	120	118	116	115	114

^aFabric compositions are 100% Cotton (Cotton) and 50%/50% Cotton/polyester (P/C)

^bOne test swatch per replicate of approximate size 12 inches by 16 inches

^cFollowing treatment with Composition No. 100 in manner described herein.

[0228]

TABLE 22

Component (weight % added)	Composition No.			
	100	101	102	103
MICHEM	51.0	—	25.0	25.0
EMULSION 743 ^a	—	—	—	—
Nalan GN ^b	—	51.0	—	—
Zonyl 8300 ^c	34.0	34.0	15.0	15.0
Accosoft 550-75 ^d	13.1	—	—	6.5
Fragrance ^e	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Colorant ^f	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004
Water ^g	1.1	14.2	59.2	49.7
Solvent ^h	—	—	—	3.0
Acid (12%) ⁱ	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.	q.s.

^aNon-cationic microcrystalline wax emulsion from Michelman

^bCationic paraffin wax emulsion from DuPont Chemicals containing a cationic methacrylate polymer

^cFluoropolymer emulsion from DuPont Chemicals

^dCationic surfactant 75% active; Methyl bis(tallowamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate

^eCommercial fragrance oil from International Fragrance and Flavors

^fCommercial non-fabric staining dye.

^gDeionized water

^hEthanol

ⁱq.s. Quantity sufficient of hydrochloric acid to adjust final composition pH to approximately pH 3.6

[0229] Results in Table 21 and 22 demonstrate the feasibility of imparting both water and oil repellency properties to fabrics when the treatment composition is dispensed in the dryer during the drying cycle. Visual results indicated less uniformity of treatment over the entire surface area of the treated test fabrics owing to the simplistic application method employed, although the test results effectively illustrate the utility of the compositions dispensed in this simple manner.

[0230] Although only preferred embodiments of the invention are specifically disclosed and described above, it will be appreciated that many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings and within the purview of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and intended scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of increasing the fabric protective properties of a fabric that comprises the steps of:

(a) depositing a composition onto the fabric wherein the composition comprises a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C.; and

(b) curing said fabric at a temperature above ambient temperature and less than 100° C.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further includes a fluoropolymer.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the composition further includes an effective amount of a zeta potential modifier so that the composition has a zeta potential that is positive and greater than zero millivolts

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the composition has a zeta potential of less than about +150 millivolts.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the composition has a zeta potential of less than about +100 millivolts.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition further includes a liquid carrier comprising an aqueous solvent, non-aqueous solvent, and mixtures thereof.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said aqueous solvent comprises water.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said non-aqueous solvent comprises a low molecular weight organic solvent, a monohydric alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, a glycol, a glycol ether, and mixtures thereof.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) is achieved through the use of one or more of a dispensing device, a bottle, a spray bottle, a dosing container, a water soluble or water insoluble sachet, a water soluble or water insoluble package, a spray or aerosol producing device, an absorbent matrix, a motion-powered, heat-powered, battery-powered or mechanically-powered dispensing device, an ironing device with liquid reservoir, any one of which initially retains and subsequently releases said composition so as to provide deposition of said composition onto said fabric.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said steps (a) and (b) are achieved simultaneously.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said steps occur simultaneously within the drum of a dryer machine.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises drying the fabric at a temperature above about 45° C. and less than 100° C.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (b) is achieved by first drying the fabric at around ambient temperature, followed by heating the fabric to a temperature above ambient temperature and less than 100° C.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (b) is achieved by use of any one of an iron, a heat lamp, a radiator, heated air, an infrared heat source, a microwave source, steam, a steam press, heated water vapor, a blow dryer, a tumble dryer, a garment refresher device, a heating device, and any combination thereof, and in any order of use thereof.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) saturates said fabric with said composition.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) uniformly coats the surface of said fabrics without saturating said fabric.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, pH adjusters, silicones, non-ionic

surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, soil release agents, soil release polymers, antistatic agents, fragrances, fragrance extenders, antimicrobial actives, preservatives, dyes, colorants, viscosity control agents, antifoaming agents, pearling agents, opacifying agents, antioxidants, sunscreens, dye transfer inhibitors, dye fixative agents, dispersants, chlorine scavengers, wetting agents, electrolytes, enzymes, bleaching agents, brighteners, heavy metal chelating agents, fabric softener actives, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, and mixtures thereof.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the fabric is selected from the group consisting of natural fibers, synthetic fibers, and mixtures thereof.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the natural fibers comprise cellulose, cotton, wool and fur and mixtures thereof.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the natural fibers comprise cotton.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein the synthetic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyamide, nylon and mixtures thereof.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein said hydrophobic agent is 0.5 to 60 weight % of the composition.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein said hydrophobic agent is at least partly insoluble in water at a temperature of about 20° C.

24. The method of claim 1 or 23 wherein said hydrophobic agent is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic waxes, polymers produced from ethylenically unsaturated monomers, low molecular weight polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, oxidized polyethylene, oxidized polypropylene, polyolefin, polyurethane, ethyl vinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloride, co-polymers, and emulsifiable waxes.

25. The method of claim 6 wherein said liquid carrier is an aqueous solvent which is between 10 weight % and 90 weight % of the composition.

26. The method of claim 6 wherein said liquid carrier is a non-aqueous solvent which is between 10 weight % and 90 weight % of the composition.

27. The method of claim 2 wherein said fluoropolymer is 0.1 to 60 weight % of the composition.

28. The method of claim 3 wherein said zeta potential modifier is 0.1 to 30 weight % of the composition.

29. The method of claim 3 wherein said zeta potential modifier is a cationic material.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said cationic material is a cationic surfactant selected from the group consisting of mono and di-methyl fatty amines, alkyl trimethyl ammonium salts, dialkyl dimethyl ammonium salts, alkyl amine acetates, trialkylammonium acetates, alkyl dimethylbenzyl ammonium salts, dialkylmethylbenzyl ammonium salts, alkylpyridinium halide and alkyl (alkyl substituted) pyridinium salts, alkylthiomethylpyridinium salts, alkylamidomethylpyridinium salts, alkylquinolinium salts, alkylisoquinolinium salts, N,N-alkylmethylpyrrolidinium salts, 1,1-dialkylpiperidinium salts, 4,4-dialkylthiomorpholinium salts, 4,4-dialkylthiomorpholinium-1-oxide salts, methyl bis(alkyl ethyl)-2-alkyl imidazolinium methyl sulfate (and other salts), methyl bis(alkylamido ethyl)-2-hydroxyethyl ammonium methyl sulfate (and other salts), alkylamidopropyl-dimethylbenzyl ammonium salts, carboxyalkyl-alkyldimethyl ammonium salts, alkylamine oxides, alkyldimethyl

ethyl amine oxides, poly(vinylmethylpyridinium) salts, poly(vinylpyridine) salts, polyethyleneimines, trialkyl phosphonium bicarbonates (and other salts), trialkylmethyl phosphonium salts, alkylethylmethylsulfonium salts, and alkyl dimethylsulfoxonium salts.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein said cationic material is selected from the group consisting of cationically modified materials including cationically modified organic polymers, biopolymers, clays, silicas, nanoparticles, and mixtures thereof.

32. The method of claim 2 wherein the composition further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, pH adjusters, silicones, non-ionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, soil release agents, soil release polymers, antistatic agents, fragrances, fragrance extenders, antimicrobial actives, preservatives, dyes, colorants, viscosity control agents, antifoaming agents, pearling agents, opacifying agents, antioxidants, sunscreens, dye transfer inhibitors, dye fixative agents, dispersants, chlorine scavengers, wetting agents, electrolytes, enzymes, bleaching agents, brighteners, heavy metal chelating agents, fabric softener actives, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, and mixtures thereof.

33. The method of claim 2 wherein the composition comprises: (i) 0.1 to 60 weight % of said fluoropolymer; and (ii) 0.5 to 60 weight % of said hydrophobic agent.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the composition further comprises 10 to 90 weight % of a liquid carrier.

35. The method of claim 3 wherein the composition comprises: (i) 0.1 to 60 weight % of said fluoropolymer; (ii) 0.5 to 60 weight % of said hydrophobic agent; and (iii) 0.1 to 30 weight % said zeta potential modifier.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the composition further comprises 10 to 90 weight % of a liquid carrier.

37. A method of increasing the water repellency properties of a fabric that comprises the steps of:

(a) depositing a composition onto the fabric wherein the composition comprises a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C.; and

(b) curing said fabric at a temperature above ambient temperature but less than 100° C., wherein increasing the water repellency of said fabric comprises increasing the initial water contact angle to an angle greater than 0 degrees.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein said initial water contact angle is greater than 30 degrees.

39. The method of claim 37 wherein said initial water contact angle is greater than 70 degrees.

40. The method of claim 37 wherein said initial water contact angle is greater than 100 degrees.

41. A method of increasing the oil repellency properties of a fabric that comprises the steps of:

(a) depositing a composition onto the fabric wherein the composition comprises a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C., a fluoropolymer; and

(b) curing said fabric at a temperature above ambient temperature but less than 100° C., wherein increasing

the oil repellancy of said fabric comprises increasing the initial oil contact angle to an angle greater than 0 degrees.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein said initial oil contact angle is greater than 30 degrees.

43. The method of claim 41 wherein said initial oil contact angle is greater than 40 degrees.

44. The method of claim 41 wherein said initial oil contact angle is greater than 70 degrees.

45. The method of claim 1 wherein said fabric protective properties of the fabric are increased without effectively decreasing the breathability of said fabric.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein said breathability of the fabric is not decreased below about 0.40 Grams of Water in Column as measured by the breathability test described herein.

47. The method of claim 2 wherein said fabric protective properties increased by said method comprise increasing both the initial water contact angle and the initial oil contact angle to angles both greater than 0 degrees.

48. The method of claim 47 wherein said initial water contact angle is greater than 30 degrees and said initial oil contact angle is greater than 30 degrees.

49. The method of claim 47 wherein said initial water contact angle is greater than 70 degrees and said initial oil contact angle is greater than 40 degrees.

50. The method of claim 47 wherein said initial water contact angle is greater than 100 degrees and said initial oil contact angle is greater than 70 degrees.

51. The method of claim 2 wherein said fabric protective properties further comprise improved handfeel, improved softness and improved resistance to damage.

52. The method of claim 2 wherein said fabric protective properties increased by said method comprise increasing soil, stain and particulate soil repellency, and combinations thereof.

53. The method of claim 2 wherein said fabric protective properties of the fabric are increased without effectively decreasing the breathability of said fabric.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein said breathability of the fabric is not decreased below about 0.40 Grams of Water in Column.

55. A method of treating a fabric in a tumble dryer machine to increase the fabric protective properties of said fabric, comprising the steps of:

(a) depositing a composition onto the fabric wherein the composition comprises a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C.; and

(b) curing said fabric at a temperature above ambient temperature but less than 100° C.;

wherein said composition optionally includes a fluoropolymer, and wherein said fabric protective properties comprise increased water repellancy, increased oil repellancy, improved handfeel, improved softness, improved resistance to damage, and any combination thereof.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a liquid carrier selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solvent, water, a non-aqueous solvent, a low molecular weight organic solvent, a monohydric alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, a glycol, a glycol ether, and mixtures thereof.

57. The method of claim 55 wherein said composition further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, pH adjusters, silicones, non-ionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, soil release agents, soil release polymers, antistatic agents, fragrances, fragrance extenders, antimicrobial actives, preservatives, dyes, colorants, viscosity control agents, antifoaming agents, pearlizing agents, opacifying agents, antioxidants, sunscreens, dye transfer inhibitors, dye fixative agents, dispersants, chlorine scavengers, wetting agents, electrolytes, enzymes, bleaching agents, brighteners, heavy metal chelating agents, fabric softener actives, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, and mixtures thereof.

58. A kit for treating a fabric to increase the fabric protective properties comprising: (a) a composition; (b) a dispensing device for depositing said composition onto said fabric; and (c) instructions for treating said fabric, wherein said composition comprises a hydrophobic agent having a melting point or glass transition temperature of less than 100° C., and wherein said instructions include the steps of depositing said composition onto said fabric and curing said fabric at a temperature sufficient to effect a fabric protective benefit to said fabric.

59. The kit of claim 58 wherein said composition further comprises a fluoropolymer.

60. The kit of claim 58 wherein said composition further comprises a zeta potential modifier.

61. The kit of claim 58 wherein said dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of a spray bottle, a dosing container, a water soluble or water insoluble sachet, a water soluble or water insoluble package, a spray or aerosol producing device, an absorbent matrix, a motion-powered, heat-powered, battery-powered or mechanically-powered dispensing device, an ironing device with liquid reservoir, any one of which provides release of the composition onto said fabric.

62. The kit of claim 58 wherein said dispensing device operates within the drum of a tumble dryer machine to effectively dispense said treatment composition onto said fabric.

63. The kit of claim 62 wherein said dispensing device may be used a plurality of times according to said instructions to treat a plurality of fabric articles.

64. The kit of claim 62 wherein said dispensing device comprises a disposable dispensing container, an absorbent matrix, or combination thereof, wherein said dispensing device contains said composition, wherein said instructions include the step of using said dispensing device a single time to treat a plurality of fabric articles.

65. The kit of claim 58 wherein said dispensing device is selected from the group consisting of an absorbent matrix releasably saturated with said treatment, a motion, heat, battery or mechanically powered dispensing device, a container with one or more dispensing orifices, a spray device, a dosing device, any one of which effectively dispenses said treatment composition onto said fabric during tumbling within the drum of a tumble dryer machine.

66. The kit of claim 58 wherein said dispensing device is manually operated to effect dispensing of a spray, mist, aerosol, vapor or fine droplets of said composition onto said fabric.

67. The kit of claim 58 wherein said dispensing device is an absorbent matrix releasably saturated with said compo-

sition, wherein said instructions include the step of placing said absorbent matrix into the drum of a tumble dryer machine for treating said fabric.

68. The kit of claim 58 wherein said composition further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, pH adjusters, silicones, non-ionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants, anionic surfactants, soil release agents, soil release polymers, antistatic agents; fragrances, fragrance extenders, antimicrobial actives, preservatives, dyes, colorants, viscosity control agents, antifoaming agents, pearling agents, opacifying agents, antioxidants, sunscreens, dye transfer inhibitors, dye fixative agents, dispersants, chlorine scavengers wetting agents, electrolytes, enzymes, bleaching agents, brighteners, heavy metal chelating agents, fabric softener actives, soil suspending agents, soil release agents, and mixtures thereof.

69. The kit of claim 58 wherein said composition further comprises a liquid carrier selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solvent, water, a non-aqueous solvent, a low molecular weight organic solvent, a monohydric alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, a glycol, a glycol ether, and mixtures thereof.

70. The kit of claim 58 wherein said instructions include the step of dispensing said composition into an internal reservoir of a treatment device that includes means to dispense said composition to effect treating of said fabric.

71. The kit of claim 70 wherein said treatment device with internal reservoir and dispensing means is selected from the group consisting of a dryer, a tumble dryer, a garment refresher device, an ironing device, a fabric press, a steaming device and a hand held iron.

* * * * *