Research Article

Comparative Enactment of Fluorocarbon-free and Fluorocarbon-based Water Repellent Finishes on Cotton Single Jersey Fabrics

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Abstract

In this study, single jersey derivatives of knit fabric were taken to evaluate the performance of water repellent finishes on knit fabrics properties. Here, polo pique and single jersey knit structured fabrics were treated with different types of water repellent chemicals at different formulations. The levels of water repellency of the fabrics were measured in accordance with ISO 4920:2012spray rating test method. To assess the performance of water repellent finishes on knit fabric properties, GSM, bursting strength test according to ASTM (D 3786-87) method, color fastness to wash according to ISO- 105/ C06-C2S method, color fastness to water with ISO 105-E01 method and color fastness to rubbing with ISO-105-X 12 method were done. The results showed that the water repellent finish type and concentration were very important parameters to obtain water repellent fabrics with desirable properties.

Keywords: Water repellency, water repellent finish, polo pique, single jersey.

1. Introduction

Cotton is a natural fibre which have many superior quality along with comfort ability. Water repellency is one functional property that is required for cotton fabric without affecting the comfort ability. Water repellency is defined as the ability of a textile material to resist wetting and it is needed for protective clothing. The tendency of a water droplet to spread out over the fabric surface mainly depends on the contact angle of the water droplet and the fabric surface. Water repellent textiles have many uses including industrial, consumer and apparel purpose. This repellency can be achieved by implementing a thin surface layer of water repellent chemicals on textile fibres by the modification of surface energy of textiles with minimal effects on other functional properties like strength, flexibility, breathability, softness etc. (Bongiovanni R 2011 and Ferrero E 2012). Polymeric coating on cotton fabric must secure good homogeneity with preferred properties without deteriorating fabric's comfort ability like handle, breathability etc. When a water repellent chemicals applied on cotton fibre, a monomer that was present in water repellent chemical with the help of initiator mixture are absorbed onto the fibres and made the fabric water repellent by formation of the polymeric chains and graft bonds inside the textile structure. Furthermore, textile materials with modified surface can be obtained even by using low add-on of the monomer by the interpenetration of components and homogenous distribution of that monomers into the fibre. The modification process route, the use of non-toxic chemicals and solvents are some of the criteria of green chemistry. A fast, versatile, efficient process with the ecological orientation of industrial textile chemicals, is a good alternative of green chemistry. It has been reported that various types of fluorocarbons that are used for textile finishing, mainly used to impart water repellency along with oil repellency (Xu CH 2010, Castelvetro V2001, Shao H 2004, Lee H J 2007, Li Z R 2008, Roe B 2009).

These consist of perfluorinated carbon chains incorporating a polymer backbone with perfluoro groups as its side chains (Kasturiya N 2003). Some existing fluorochemicals are made with C8 carbon backbone chains that can release perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and other toxic and hazardousmaterials. Hence C6 based fluorocarbons were introduced, though their repellency performance and durability are less than C8 based ones and for these reason, some cross-linkers likealkyl urethane, were introduced (Mohsin M 2016). Fluorochemical finishings are usually available as water emulsions and are used to fabric by the pad-dry-cure method with a curing temperature around 160-1700C for a couple of minutes (Castelvetro V2001, Shao H 2004, Lee H J

*Corresponding author's ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9218-2053 DOI: https://doi.org/10.14741/ijcet/v.8.2.34 2007, Li Z R 2008). The water repellent properties were evaluated by measuring contact angle, wettability, moisture absorption and vapour permeability.

The first group of water repellent finishing agents is dispersion of fluorine compounds, namely fluorocarbon (FC). The final polymer, when applied to a fibre, should form a structure that presents a dense CF3 outer surface for maximum repellency. A typical structure is shown in below Figure 1. The length of the perfluorinated side chains should be about 8–10 carbons. Co-monomers are X, Y, for example are stearyl- or lauryl-meth-acrylate, butyl-acrylate, methylol- or epoxy-functional acrylates.



Figure 1. Fluorocarbon repellent on fibre surface. M=6-10. X and Y are co-monomers, mainly stearylates. R=H or CH₃ (polyacrylic or polymethacrylic acid esters). A is the fibre surface (Schindler WD 2004).

The second group water repellent chemical is fluorocarbon resin with polymeric, hyperbranched dendrimers in a hydrocarbon. It is a novel development and is inspired by nature and therefore called bionic finishes. Fluorocarbon polymers are applied together with dendrimers, where the fluorocarbon chains are enriched on the surface and crystallize with the dendrimers. Dendrimers are highly branched oligomers with non-polar chains forming a star brush structure. They force the polar parts of the FC polymers to form the surface structure. The resulting polar and non-polar sandwich arrangements are highly ordered, causing better repellency effects, with lower amounts of fluorocarbon compared to dendrimer-free FC finishes.





Third group water repellent chemical is poly alkyl urethane resin. It is a renewably sourced nonfluorinated water repellent chemical. It contains 63% renewably sourced content derived from a variety of plant-based sources. It effectively repels water and water based liquid including fruit juice, hot coffee, red wine from cotton, synthetic blends fabrics.



Figure 3. Alkyl urethane structure (Schindler WD 2004)

In the literature, a considerable number of studies on different water repellent chemicals, their application procedure, methods for improving the durability and their wash fastness and curing temperature have been reported (Sahin B 1996, Corpat J M 1997, Grottenmuller R 1998, Hangjin Q 2002).

There are almost insufficient work on the performance of water repellent finish and their effects on knit single jersey fabrics. The purpose of this study was to observe and evaluate the performance of what water repellent finish on which concentration affected single jersey knit fabrics properties after finishing.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1.1. Fabrics

100% cotton single jersey fabrics (scoured, bleached) are used for this experiment to apply different types of water repellent chemicals by pad-dry-cure method. The fabrics are supplied by Texeurop (BD) Ltd, Bangladesh. Two types of single jersey knit structure derivatives are used here, such as polo pique and single jersey (S/J).

Table. 1	. Types	of fabrics	with their	specification
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Name of Knit	GSM	Count	Composition
Fabrics			
Polo pique	200	28 Ne	100% cotton
S/J	160	28 Ne	100% cotton

These fabrics presents a 0° contact angle with water, as the drops were absorbed immediately showing excellent hydrophilic character of cotton. Supplied fabrics are first dyed by using following recipe which is stated in Table 2 in Microfibre lab.

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Dyes and chemicals	Polo Pique fabric (Turquise color)	Recipe	Single jersey fabric (Orange color)	Recipe					
Dyestuff	Reacto bond Turquise Blue G 133%	4%	Reacto bond Orange 2	RX 0.5%					
Auxiliaries	Jinlev ECO CL 225 (Levelling agent): 25g/lJintexy Ec SQ 117CA (Sequestering agent): 25g/lJingen Lub CBA (Wetting agent): 50g/l								
			Polo pique	S/J					
	Glauber's sal	t	60g/L	16 g/L					
Pasic Chomicals	Soda ash		20g/L	9 g/L					
Dasic Chemicais	Temperature	2	80ºC	60ºC					
	T	ime	90 min						
		M:L	1:10						
	Cold wash								
After treatment	Actu wash 2 cc/L for 4-5 min (Green actd) Hot wash at 95° C for 7 min								
	Soap wash 2	g/L for 7 min (So	aping agent Jingen SP AV	/5045)					
	Hot wa	sh at 95ºC for 7 m	nin (2 times) and then dry	у.					

After dyeing the fabrics are then finished with three different water repellent chemicals in three different concentrations to investigate the effect of water repellent chemicals and concentrations on water repellency, other physical and color fastness properties of the fabrics.

2.1.2.Water repellent chemicals

First is fluorocarbon (FC) (trade name Nuva TTC which is a fluorocarbon based water repellent agent, weakly cationic, dispersion of fluorine compound, Clariant), second is FC+dendrimers(FC+D) (trade name Rucostar EEE6 which is fluorocarbon (C6) resin with polymeric, hyperbranched dendrimers in a hydrocarbon, cationic, Rudolf chemie)) and third is poly alkyl urethane (alkyl urethane) (Zelan R3 which is a alkyl urethane water repellent chemicals, cationic, Huntsman) water repellent chemicals are used in this experiment.

2.1.3. Water repellent application bath

Single jersey fabrics are treated with three different water repellent chemicals at three different concentrations (70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100 g/L) from a separate bath with the similar bath condition. First is fluorocarbon (FC), second is fluorocarbon with dendrimers (FC+D) and third is alkyl urethane (alkyl urethane) water repellent chemical solutions are prepared. The process parameters are adopted as recommended by the supplier. The name of chemicals, bath set up are given in Table 3. Horizontal Pad-Mangle machine (Rapid, Xiamen Rapid Co Ltd, China) is used for padding with 4.5 rpm fabric speed and 2.3 kg/cm² padding pressure. Channel precision oven machine (china) is used for drying and Labtec Steamer machine (Newave Lab equipments Co Ltd, Taiwan) is used for curing.

Alkyl FC FC+D Finishing bath set up urethane 70,90, 70,90, 70,90, Resin 10<u>0 g/I</u> 100 g/L 100 g/I 01 ml/L 01 ml/L as 01 ml/L as Acetic acid required required required Name for p^H 4-5 for p^H 4-5 for of р^н 4-5 chemicals Phobol XAN --10 g/L -g/L (booster Invadine PBN(wetting 5 g/L ---agent) Padding 80% pick up

Drying

Curing

Padder

Pressure

120°C for 3 min

160°C for 2 min

1 bar

Table 3. Water repellent application bath

Phobol XAN: It is mainly used as booster or extender for water and oil repellent products and its chemical constitution is dispersion of oxime blocked isocyanate. Cationic, light beige color, P^{H} about 2.5-4.5, and dissolve in cold water to add to the finishing bath. Invadine PBN: Wetting agent for oil and water repellent finishes. The chemical constitution is surface active preparation of ethyoxylated fatty alcohol and aliphatic ether alcohol. Anionic, clear to opalescent liquid, p^{H} about 7.5-9.5, dissolve in cold water.

2.2. Methods

Application

Parameters

2.2.1. Water repellent evaluation test

There are two types of water repellent evaluation test are used.

- a) Drop test (it checks the contact angle)
- b) Spray rating test (The spray rating tests are

evaluted by using ISO 4920:2012 test method where 5 grade of surface resistance rating expresses that there will be no sticking or wetting of the upper fabric surface, 4 grade rating expresses that there will be only slight random wetting on the upper fabric surface, 3 grade means there will be wetting at the spray points on the upper surface of fabric while a fabric with complete wetting was assigned a 0 rating. Spray rating tests were done by Spray Rating Tester by James H. Heal & Co. Ltd. Halifax, England)

2.2.2. Physical and chemical testing

Each samples are tested in the standard atmosphere, $25\pm2^{\circ}$ C temperature and 65% RH after conditioning 24 hrs.

2.2.2.1. GSM test: GSM test is done by GSM cutter from James H. Heal & Co. Ltd. Halifax, England according to ASTM (D 3776-79) method.

2.2.2.2. Bursting strength test: It is done by bursting strength tester from SDL Atlas according to ASTM D 3786-87 method.

2.2.2.3. Color fastness to wash: Color fastness to wash is measured with ISO- 105 C2S method.

2.2.2.4 .Color fastness to water: It is done by ISO 105-E01 method.

2.2.2.5 Color fastness to rubbing: The resistance of color against rubbing of dyed fabrics (dry and wet) are evaluated with ISO-105-X 12 method.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Water repellent evaluation test

3.1.1.Drop test

Three different types of water repellent chemicals are used among them two chemicals are fluorocarbon based and one is alkyl urethane based. Water repellent solutions (trade name Nuva TTC, Rcostar EEE6, & Zelan R3) are prepared in 70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100 g/L concentrations and applied on different 100% cotton knit single jersey dyed fabrics. Two types of single jersey knit fabrics are used in here which are single jersey (S/J) and polo pique. This is the visual test to evaluate the water repellency. If the material surface has lower surface tension than water, then that material is called water repellent which means if a water drop is placed on water repellent material then the drop will rest up on it without penetration. Here are the visual appearances of untreated and treated fabrics are shown in Figure 4, showing that treated fabrics are water repellent.



Figure 4. Some physical appearances of untreated and treated fabrics with alkyl urethane; color fabricsare treated with 100 g/L conc. and white fabrics are untreated and treated with 70 g/L and 90 g/L conc. of alkyl urethane.

3.1.2. Spray rating test

Three water repellent chemical's solutions are prepared in different concentrations such as 70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100 g/L conc. and applied on knit single jersey dyed fabrics (S/J and polo pique). These treated fabrics are evaluated using ISO 4920:2012 method. The evaluated rating of the samples are given in chart. Schindler and Hauser described that by completing the pad-dry-cure process, the heat treatment changes perfluoro side chains to almost crystalline structures to achieve optimal water repellency (Schindler WD 2004). Compared with the untreated fabric, the finished fabrics had good water repellency with around 3-5 grades.

Table 4: Spray rating of different fabrics treated withwater repellent chemicals at 70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100g/L conc.

Conc. (g/L)	Fabric	FC	Alkyl urethane	FC+D
70	Polo pique	3-4	3-4	4
70	S/J	3-4	3-4	4
00	Polo pique	4	4-5	4-5
90	S/J	4	4	4
100	Polo pique	4-5	4-5	4-5
100	S/J	4	4	4





From the above Figure 5 and Table 4, it is clearly evident that indifferent concentrations, water repellency rating varies with different single jersey fabrics. In 70 g/L conc., comparatively good spray rating is found by using FC+D water repellent chemical for both S/I and polo pique fabrics. In 90 g/L conc., water repellency rating has found better for both alkyl urethane and FC+D water repellent chemicals for both S/J and polo pique fabrics. Among the fabrics, polo pique fabric shows the best rating without any changing for FC+D water repellent chemical by that conc. Particularly for 100 g/L conc., fluorocarbon gives the best result for both fabrics rather than others and in high concentration all the chemicals show better result for both fabrics.

3. 2. Analysis of GSM

The GSM tests are done for all fabrics treated three different water repellent agents with three different concentration and found results are given in below chart:

Table 5. GSM of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100 g/L conc.

Fabric Name	GSM (Before)	Conc. (g/L)	FC	Alkyl urethane	FC+D
Polo pique	200	70	210	213	211
S/J	160		172	173	172
Polo pique	200	90	215	215	214
S/J	160		175	175	174
Polo pique	200	100	218	217	216
S/I	160		178	180	179



Figure 6. GSM of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at conc. of 70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100 g/L.

After chemical implementation of the different single jersey fabrics with various conc. from Figure 6 and Table 5, GSM has increased because chemical has covered up all the pores of the fabric and a chemical coating is created on the fabric. Therefore, the water is not allowed to penetrate into the fabric.

3.3.Bursting Strength test

Burstingstrength plays a vital role after water repllent finish.It was done according to ASTM (D 3786-87) method to evaluate the treated knit fabric's bursting strength.In here,in the chart the bursting strength of the cotton single jersey knit fabric shows slight detoriation occurs and it is obviously taken into account as resin crosslinks in amorphousregion of cellulose leading lower flexibility and harsh handfeel. Though it is marginal for the fabric to go for the next proceedings.

Table 6. Bursting strength of single jersey fabrics
treated with water repellent chemicals at 70 g/L, 90
g/L and 100 g/L conc.

Fabric Name	Bursting Strengh (kpa) (before)	Conc. (g/L)	FC	Alkyl urethane	FC+D
Polo pique	328.3	70	294.2	293.7	300.5
S/J	304.7		278.0	280.6	277.6
Polo pique	328.3	90	281.1	290.5	286.9
S/J	304.7		269.9	271.7	278.2
Polo pique	328.3	100	280.3	285.3	285.4
S/J	304.7		256.0	266.3	255.9



Figure 7. Bursting Strength (kpa) of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at conc. 70 g/L, 90 g/L and 100g/L.

From the above chart in Figure 7 and Table 6, it is clear that after water repellent finish the fabric strength is decreased and it's reasonable. The fabric strength is decreased by increasing of concentration. The bursting strength of knit fabric reduced because of effect of the cellulosic fiber during cross linking process. When the water repellent chemicals form cross link with the cotton free O-H group in the amorphous region, it makes stiff of the fabric and moreover, cross linking reaction is done mainly in acidic condition which are also responsible for the loss of the fabric bursting strength.

3.4. Color fastness to wash

The wash fastness of water repellent treated fabric with different concentration were measured with ISO-105/ C06-C2S method and rated under grey scale for two types of measurement, one was for color change and another was for color staining. The rated chart was given below in Table 7.At first the sample was washed with standard recipe and then color change was measured to the washed sample with the standard sample and compared. Color staining was also measured with grey scale with the help of multifibre fabric. The ratings were given below for 70, 90 and 100 g/L conc. for different water repellent chemicals. It showed the best color fastness to wash with alkyl urethane and FC+D water repellent chemicals than FC chemical for fabrics at different conc. The improvement of wash fastness of water repellent finished fabric was because of the dye molecules trapped inside the crosslinking film.

Table 7. Color fastness to wash of single jersey fabricstreated with water repellent chemicals at 70 g/L,90g/L and 100g/L conc.

	Color fastness to wash													
Samp	Conc.	Unfir	ished			FC		All	cyl ureth:	ane	FC+D			
le	(g/L)	Color	Color s	taining	Color	Color s	taining	Color	Color s	taining	Color	Color		
		chang			chan			chang			chang	stainin	g	
		e	Cotto	Wool	ge	Cotto	Wool	e	Cotto	Wool	e	Cotto	Wo	
			n			n			n			n	ol	
Polo	70	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	
pique	90	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3-4	4	4	3-4	4	
	100	4	3	4	4	3-4	4-5	4	3-4	4	4	3-4	4	
S/J	70	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	
	90	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	
	100	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	

3.5. Color fastness to water

Color fastnessto waterof different water repellent treated fabrics were rated under grey scale for two types of measurement, one is for color change and another is for color staining. Color fastness to water is measured with ISO 105 E01 method. Color staining was measured with grey scale with the help of multifibre fabric. The rated chart was given below in Table 8. The water fastness of all water repellent treated fabrics were measured at 70, 90, and 100 g/L conc. The water fastness of alkyl urethane and FC+D water repellent chemicals showed better result than FC chemicals for single jersey fabrics at different conc. Moreover, the water fastness was improved with the increase of water repellent chemicals conc.

Table 8. Color fastness to water of single jersey fabricstreated with water repellent chemicals at 70 g/L,90g/L and 100g/L conc.

	Color fastness to water													
Sampl	Conc.	Unfir	ished			FC		All	kyl uretha	ane	FC+D	FC+D		
e	(g/L)	Color	Color s	taining	Color	Color s	taining	Color	Color s	taining	Color	Color		
		chang			chan	ı –		chang			chang	stainin	g	
		e	Cotto	Wool	ge	Cotton	Wool	e	Cotton	Wool	e	Cotto	Wo	
			n									n	ol	
Polo	70	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	
pique	90	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	
	100	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	
S/J	70	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	
	90	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	
	100	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	

3.6. Rubbing fastness

The resistance of color against rubbing of dyed fabrics (dry and wet) were evaluated with ISO-105-X 12 method. The rubbing fastness of water repellent treated fabric with different concentration was rated under grey scale for the measurement of color staining against dry and wet white fabric. The rated chart of rubbing fastness for wet and dry rub was given below in Table. 9. It showed that both dry and wet rub are increased after water repellent finish on conc. 90 g/L and 100 g/L as more resin make more coating on fabric surface thus preventing color staining against rub.

Table 9.Rubbing fastness of single jersey fabricstreated with water repellent chemicals at 70 g/L,90g/L and 100g/L conc.

	Color Fastness to rubbing											
Fabric	Conc.	Untrea	Untreated		FC	Alkyl urethane		FC+D				
	(g/L)	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet			
Polo pique	70	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3			
	90	4	3	4	3	4	3-4	4	3-4			
	100	4	3	4	3-4	4	3-4	4	3-4			
S/J	70	4	3	4-5	3-4	4-5	3-4	4-5	4			
	90	4	3	4-5	4	4-5	4	4-5	4			
	100	4	3	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5			

From the data sheet (staining), it is found that all three FC, FC+D and alkyl urethane water repellent finishes showed good rubbing (dry and wet) fastness than untreated ones for single jersey fabrics as rubbing fastness is mainly depends on dye structure and chemical's add on. The rubbing fastness improves with the chemical conc. increases as repellent chemical make a thin coating on fabric surface.Alkyl urethane and FC+D show better rubbing fastness in all single jersey knit fabrics than FC.

Conclusion

In this study, the effect of water repellent finishes were investigated on single jersey derivatives of knit fabrics (polo pique and S/I) with different conc. To do so, 24 repellent treated different structured knit fabrics samples were tested and obtained results were evaluated. Different physical and chemical test results showed that the repellent types and their conc. ranges significantly influenced water repellency of single jersey fabrics. When fluorocarbon with dendrimers (FC+D) was used, then the best water repellency is obtained. Changing concentration from lower to higher conc., gives gradually increased water repellency, regardless of repellent chemical type. However, unlike the findings of previous research works which described that if the water repellent was used with higher concentration, strength is decreased. The repellent chemicals and their changing conc. did not cause significant change to bursting strength of knit fabrics. There was no remarkable deviation is observed in GSM on the basis of water repellent chemicals and their varying concentrations. A higher in repellent conc. caused a higher wash fastness, water fastness and rubbing fastness. Finishing after dyeing had no effect

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on water repellency is another important conclusion of this work.

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