

## More Tips on Using Prepared Inkjet Fabric Sheets

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SEE JENNIFER'S FULL ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012 ISSUE

I hope you find this chart helpful. In it, I break down the specifics of the fabric sheets I tested.

| Brand                                    | Color     | Heat set? | Drying Time    | Rinse Temp     | Dye released in rinse        | Approx. retail price per sheet |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blumenthal Cotton Poplin                 | White     | No        | Dry Completely | No information | Quite a bit                  | \$2.50                         |
| C. Jenkins Miracle Fabric Sheets™        | Off-white | Yes       | No information | Cold           | A lot, the most of any brand | \$2.00                         |
| EQ® Printables Cotton (200 thread count) | Creamy    | No        | 15 minutes     | Room temp      | Very little                  | \$3.33                         |
| Jacquard® Cotton Percale                 | White     | No        | No information | Cool           | Very little                  | \$1.55                         |
| June Tailor® Colorfast                   | Off-white | Yes       | Allow to dry   | Cold           | Very little                  | \$2.50                         |
| Printed Treasures®                       | Creamy    | No        | 1 minute       | Cold           | Quite a bit                  | \$4.60                         |



### FABRIC SOFTENER: YES OR NO?

None of the fabric sheet instructions mention using softener in the rinse, but various quilt books and websites make that recommendation. I could find no source to explain why. After an Internet search, I discovered that most major brand fabric softeners contain a cationic softening agent, which is positively charged and clings or binds to the negatively charged fabric. The dyes, also being negatively charged, cling or bind, too. Dye fixatives like Retayne™ are cationic, so fabric softeners can work like a dye fixative. Check the label. When ingredients were listed, I found most bottles of Downy®, Gain®, and Snuggle® mentioned cationic.

### NEW INFORMATION

Jacquard recently changed the instruction on the packaging to recommend spraying the fabric after printing with a product like Scotchgard™. The instructions do not say to dry 24 hours, so I sprayed a sample right after printing. The inks bled a lot, and while they say the hand of the fabric should not change, that was not my experience. The fabric was much stiffer after the treatment, even after multiple light applications as mentioned. I did get better results, with just a little bit of bleeding, when I waited to spray the fabric sheet after 24 hours. A product like Scotchgard needs to be re-applied after each cleaning. In reality, none of these fabric sheets printed with water-based inkjet dyes will stand up to normal daily washing methods over time. If washing in a machine, do so sparingly and use a delicate cycle or hand wash with a gentle detergent.