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AMBER ALERT

Amber Alert

Amber Alert - July 2018 update (issue 94)

Pure New Wool Filled Brinkhaus Mattress Topper—update



Amber Alert - July 2018 update

Following the release of the July Amber Alert relating to the Brinkhaus mattress topper, we felt that the information provided by the manufacturer in the first paragraph regarding the physical properties of wool (which were clearly wrong and misleading) could easily have been misconstrued as Guild information on wool. To set the record straight, wool is a strongly Hydrophobic fibre ie it has excellent water repellant properties - it is not Hydrophilic as claimed by the manufacture. It also has the highest regain of any textile fibre at between 14 - 16.3 % but under conditions of very high atmospheric relative humidity it has the capacity to hold up to 28% moisture before it actually feels noticeably damp. On the other hand cotton (regain 7.0 - 8.5%) is strongly hydrophilic and unlike wool it can absorb and soak up large amounts of water which is why it is used for tea towels and glass cloths whereas wool would be ineffective.

While wet cleaning may prove to be safe and effective in some cases where there is little soiling or stains, the extensive water based staining and medicants often found on bedding can be deep seated and difficult to remove and in these cases wet cleaning is unlikely to be effective. Also, low temperature processing without chemical disinfection should be avoided where there could be a risk of cross infection, for example in care home environments.

“Obviously we cannot say that other items of the same type will have the same problem, or that a different method of cleaning may have had a more satisfactory result, because this was not tested, but we advise caution and that you carry out your own test if you are going to clean this type of garment.”