



## Quality and longevity of textile products

The high quality of our products is a basic requirement to be met by all ALDI suppliers. By placing our particular focus on quality and monitoring quality throughout the production process, ALDI directly meets the demand for a long lifespan of our textile products. High-quality products are only one of the two equally important key factors impacting textile longevity, the second being the 'best possible' care of the product during its useful life.



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Products only go on sale in our stores provided that all requirements have been met and the merchandise meets our high standards. Standard testing methods that play an important role in terms of quality assurance besides various independent tests, which help ensure a consistently high level of quality of ALDI products, are outlined below.

## Quality standards and testing applicable to textile products

### Fastness

#### Fastness to rubbing in compliance with DIN EN ISO 105-X12, textiles – tests for colour fastness

For ALDI, these tests lay the foundations for virtually all of its textiles in order to be able to rule out the possibility of soiling or discolouration due to the newness of products. A colour fastness to rubbing test must be conducted, for example, if there is a risk of dark fabrics causing discolouration of light fabrics.

Independent testing institutes notify ALDI and its suppliers immediately upon detecting any deviations from the strict requirements. This enables both ALDI and its suppliers to initiate measures at an early stage so that the textile products can be released on the market in the usual quality.

Colour fastness to rubbing: these tests are applied in order to determine colour bleeding of the sample to be tested (a white standardised cotton fabric). Consequently, fastness to rubbing (dry and wet) is tested using a scale ranging from 1 to 5, whereby 5 is the best score and 1 is the worst score.

## Tensile strength

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### Tensile strength of textiles in compliance with DIN EN ISO 13934-1 Determination of maximum force and elongation at maximum force using the strip method

Testing tensile strength is another important component of the ALDI testing programme. These tests ensure that the quality of products in terms of tensile strength and elongation in particular (e.g. shirts) consistently meets ALDI's high quality requirements. The same applies in these cases: potential deviations can be prevented by testing the merchandise at an early stage.



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water-repellent finish. This proactively ensures that all ALDI products live up to the promise of being water-repellent'.

Water repellency properties: This method describes a procedure for determining the water repellency properties of fabrics with or without a water-resistant or water-repellent finish. The water repellency properties are tested in order to ensure that a waterproof jacket is in fact water-repellent, for example.

## Product fit testing

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By conducting product fit testing, ALDI SOUTH ensures that the customer is provided with perfectly cut and thus well-fitting garments on a permanent basis. The product fit of garments is impacted by the cut of the fabric and the materials used. Therefore, product fit testing is conducted exclusively with the assistance of test persons.

The selection is conducted in such a manner that the body measurements match the clothing sizes to be reviewed. During testing, the garments are evaluated by experienced garment technicians and additionally by test persons who test



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Careful use of the textiles during the phase of use is as important as their initial quality and robustness at the time of purchase. In order to increase the lifespan of textiles, the correct care of the individual products needs to be pointed out in particular.

### Care and use instructions

Soiling, incorrect cleaning, or minor damage to the product often result in high-quality textiles being sorted out or even disposed of. Customers should be made aware of the fact that this is often not necessary or can be prevented. In many cases, few and uncomplicated measures or minor research efforts regarding the correct care of the product are sufficient to enjoy one's textile products for a long time.

Please find further care and repair instructions as well as creative upcycling ideas within the European Clothing Action Plan (ECAP) with regard to the international 'Love your clothes' campaign, which ALDI actively supports as a member.



How to sew on a button



General laundry tips



Make a patchwork quilt

## Textile guideline

If you have any questions concerning the topic of 'textiles' and the quality and properties of relevant products, our textile guideline provides important information on a wide range of topics, such as cotton, cashmere, wool, and other important



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