

Apr 11th, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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Recommended Citation

Bissell, Blythe; Barr, Madeline; Huggs, Lily; and Heiden, Kathleen, "The Serviceability of Athletic Jackets" (2019). *ANS Research Symposium*. 48.
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The Serviceability of Athletic Jackets

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The purpose of this research project was to test the performance of three different brands of athletic tops from BCG, Under Armour, and Avia to determine which brand had the best serviceability according to the textile properties. The general construction of each of these shirts was classified according to the yarn and weave structure, method of coloration, fabric weight, and the thread count.

Dimensional stability and appearance retention of each garment were evaluated after one, three, and ten launderings. Colorfastness to crocking, laundering, bleach, and perspiration were evaluated. Each of the garments ability to resist stains was tested by applying ketchup, chocolate syrup, vegetable oil, mayonnaise, yogurt, butter, and mustard to a swatch of each of the garments. Wickability was also tested.

Avia had the greatest amount of shrinkage by 5% in length while Under Armour and BCG had zero percent shrinkage throughout the 10 launders. The appearance retention of the Under Armour and BCG tops were identical during the laundering process as their color never really faded. Each garment also had zero to no wrinkle throughout the process.

All of the jackets are composed of polyester, Under Armour and BCG both being 100%, and Avia being 95% Polyester and 5% spandex. All three brands outperformed the minimum industry standards for most tests. We concluded that the BCG jacket was the best choice for customers, performing even better than Under Armour, and costing \$35.00 less. It is also cheaper than the Avia jacket and performed significantly better than Avia. We believe that for the least expensive product we tested with the best results out of the three, that the BCG jacket will be the garment that provides the highest customer satisfaction.