

## How to Bleach Polyester

Although bleaching of polyester is typically not necessary, it may be desired to create a very clean “base” white for tinting or brightening with an optical whitener. First, the goods must be properly scoured.

- Enter goods into a bath containing:
  - 0.2 oz/gal(1.5 g/L) sodium chlorite\*
  - 0.2 oz/gal(1.5 g/L) sodium nitrate
  - 0.3 oz/gal(1.5 g/L) acetic acid 56%
- Run goods at 200°F(93°C) for 45 minutes. 0.2 oz/gal(1.5 g/L) of Oxalic acid may be used in place of acetic acid when rust spots are present. After 45 minutes, drop bath and rinse well.
- In a fresh bath add 0.27 oz/gal(2.0 g/L) sodium bisulfite and .067 oz/gal(0.5 g/L) **Orconol CHSA Conc™**. Run at 140°F(60°C) for 20 minutes. Drop bath and rinse well.

Refer to the technical bulletins on **Orco Synthrowite RBP™** or **Orco Synthrowite RRP™** optical brighteners for exhaust and padding applications for increased “whiteness.” For efficiency, an “all-in-one” procedure incorporating scouring, caustic treatment, and application of optical whitener can produce a nice clean white for minimal cost. Call your nearest ORCO representative for a detailed procedure for your application and requirements.

\* If an alternative process which does not require Sodium Chlorite is desired, refer to the technical bulletin for **Orcolite NF Conc™**. Good ventilation is very important when using Sodium Chlorite as it is an aggressive oxidizing agent which can be hazardous to personnel and equipment if not properly handled. Contact the manufacturer for directions and precautions before using.