

## **How can finishing improve the environmental impact of textile?**

Textile finishing environmental impact may be evaluated using the Life Cycle Assessment thinking. Because of the great number of machines and chemicals involved in the textile finishing, the evaluation is complex. However, all the results show that finishing is the most polluting stage of textile processing. A lot of research work has been carried out to develop new technologies in order to improve both the environmental aspect and the finishing quality. These new ways of cleaner finishing include new processes such as physical treatments (ultrasonic, plasma treatments ...) or new chemistry (biotechnology, alternative textile auxiliaries...).

The aim of this presentation is to give an overview on these researches. Another point we will also focus on is of the assessment of the environmental impact on the whole garment life cycle. Consumption, use and maintenance of textile products have also a heavy burden on the environment. Indeed, the care of textiles, laundering and ironing have a major impact on environment: water pollution and energy consumption. Textile finishes such as easy care and durable press finishes on cellulose or soil-release treatment on synthetics may have a positive contribution to reduce the environmental impact of a garment since less detergent may be used as well as less energy necessary to iron the garment.