

The Shatnez Newsletter

By Rabbi Dovid Ginsburg- Cleveland

Fall 2007

Quick Fact:

Shatnez is the combination of sheep's wool and linen from the flax plant.

Other wools, such as mohair (goat) or angora (long-haired rabbit) are not included in the prohibition.

Other vegetable fibers, such as cotton are not included in the prohibition.

Basic Guidelines II

Hats

- § **Fedora-style hats, which are made from angora (rabbit) wool or beaver, do not require testing.**
- § **"Taxi-style" cloth caps need testing as they may contain Shatnez in the fabric or lining.**
- § **Caps made of pure wool, such as "Kangol" brand caps, have not been found to contain Shatnez.**
- § **Women's head coverings, such as hats and snoods should be checked if they contain wool or linen.**
- § **Costumes, sports equipment with padding, and military surplus, including hats, should always be checked.**
- § **Any hat with an insulating layer between the outer shell and inner lining should be checked. Please see the following article about a Russian-style fur hat.**



Russian-Style Winter Hats

Very often clothes from Russia contain Shatnez. Shatnez has been found in suits, coats, and other types of clothing. In Russian military clothing combinations of wool and linen are frequently used for warmth and durability.

Many major Western clothes manufactures now outsource to factories in countries from the former Soviet Union. These garments may not be made in the typical Russian manner with its frequent use of mixed materials that contain Shatnez, but of course they should be checked.

A story to illustrate:

While giving an educational Shatnez presentation to a group of young girls, I mentioned that Russian-style fur hats often contain Shatnez. The girls' Rebbi told me that he had bought one three years ago on the street in Moscow. "I was freezing and it was a bargain," he told me. "We could check in now to show the girls how we check for Shatnez," I said.

He agreed and went to the car to get it. As I gently opened the seam of the inner lining to inspect the insulation, he could tell from the expression on my face that what I found was a problem. The interior of the hat was filled with ground rags, great for insulation, but almost always Shatnez.

Thankfully we caught it, but it was too late: the Rebbi had worn the hat three winters in a row, perhaps hundreds of times.

With winter on its way be sure to have your garments inspected before you need them!

Best wishes, Rabbi Ginsburg

Rabbi Dovid Ginsburg is a member of the International Association of Professional Shaatnez Laboratories (NCSTAR), a network of over 80 testers in more than 60 cities worldwide.

HOURS

ADDRESS

SUNDAY

3726 BENDEMEER RD.

10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

TELEPHONE NUMBER

7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

(216) 458-1895

CALL TO MAKE AN

NCSTAR ON THE WEB

APPOINTMENT AT OTHER

WWW.SHAATNEZ.N3.NET

TIMES OR ASK A QUESTION.

Recent Find in Shatnez Labs in the NCSTAR Network

From all over North America and the World, Shatnez testers in the NCSTAR network are sharing information. Here is a list of only some of the garments in which Shatnez was found.

Men's Suit's

Astor & Black Custom Clothiers-H.K.
Andrew Fezza – FYR Macedonia
Armani Collezioni-Italy
Armani-Italy
Arnold Brant -Canada
Banana Republic-Turkey
Barberini-France
Barneys NewYork-Italy
Brioni- Italy
Brooks Brothers- U.S.A.
Burberry -U.S.A.
Calvin Klien Collection-Italy
Canali-Italy
Cantarelli-Italy
Cerruli 1881-Italy
Cornelliani-Italy
Crispino
Daks
Di Pal Zileri-Italy
Donna Karan
Dunhill
Ermenegildo Zegna
Express Design Studio-Turkey
Faconnable-Italy
Gian Luca-Italy
Gianfranco ferre-Italy
Gianni Campagna- Italy
Gianni Versace –Italy
Giorgio Armani- Italy
Gucci-Italy
H&M-Turkey
Halston-Italy
Hathaway-Italy
Hickey-Freeman- U.S.A
Hilton Vestimenta-Italy
Hong Kong Tailored Suits
Hugo Boss- U.S.A
Jaguar
Jhane Barnes Frequency-China
John Varvatos*USA-Mexico
Joseph A Banks-Mexico
Joseph Abboud
Kenneth Cole-Macedonia
Kiton-Italy

NOT ALL CREATED EQUAL

One of the questions most frequently asked of Shatnez testers is: "If I bought two of the same garment, do I have to have the second one checked?"

Yes.

These two stories illustrate why.

Mr. Yoel Hyton, of Chicago, brought in two identical Nautica coats during the last weeks of January. While one was found to be without Shatnez, the other had linen in the belt loops. This was the strange case of the selvage originally found by Rabbi Heinemann of Cleveland. Selvage is a thread woven in to the edges large bolts of cloth to prevent the weave from unraveling.

Mrs. Fern Guttman, also of Chicago dropped off two identical Louis Dell O'lio coats that were for her sons. Two coats bought from the same store, from the same rack. One coat's shoulder pads were made from recycled fibers that contained a mix of wool and linen, while its twin did not.

Each garment we wear is unique and may contain Shatnez.

Lanvin-Italy
Mani-Mexico
Marcello Torontino-Italy
Moschino
Navigante-China
Neiman Marcus
Nick Name-Italy
Oddermark
Oxford Clothiers- U.S.A
Pal Zileri-Italy
Philippe Laurent-Venezuela
Piattelli-Italy
Polo by Ralph Lauren-Italy
Prada-Italy
Redaelli-Italy
Redwood & Ross –U.S.A.
Sara-Turkey
Saks Fifth Avenue-China
Samuelson-Canada
Sharfman's-Turkey
Stones
Ted Baker Endurance-Turkey
Ted Baker-Morocco
Tombolini-Italy
Trend Corneliani-Italy
Trussini-Italy
Ungaro-Spain
Valentino-Italy
Van Gills
Venturini-Turkey
Versace Classic-Croatia
Versace Collection-Croatia
Versace-Italy
Vestimenta-Italy
Z Zegna
Zanella-Italy
Zara Man-Turkey

Men's Coat's

Banana Republic-Thailand
Canali-Italy
Hickey Freeman –U.S.A.
Hugo Boss
Joseph Abboud-China
Kenneth Cole-FYR Macedonia
Lanvin-Italy
Perry Ellis-China

Boys Suits

Armani Martillo-Canada
Bergamo Uomo
Gyvanchi-Canada
Milano Collection -Turkey
Nino Bertini-Italy
Victorio De Milano-Syria