

Performance Evaluation of Water Repellent Finishes on Cotton Fabrics

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Abstract In this study, both woven and knit fabrics were taken to evaluate the performance of water repellent finishes on cotton fabrics properties. Here, 100% cotton fabrics were treated with different types of fluorocarbon based water repellent chemicals at different formulations. The levels of water repellency of the fabrics were measured in accordance with AATCC 127 hydrostatic head test method and with ISO 4920:2012 spray rating test method. To assess the performance of water repellent finishes on fabric properties, GSM, bursting strength, tensile strength, abrasion resistance, air permeability, color fastness to wash, water, perspiration and rubbing fastness with ISO method were done. The results showed that the water repellent finish type, concentration and curing temperature were very important parameters to obtain water repellent fabrics with desirable properties.

Keywords Water repellency, Water repellent finish, Knit fabric, Woven fabric, Fluorocarbons

1. Introduction

Cotton is a versatile fibre with outstanding quality regards comfort ability. Water repellency is one of the most common functional properties that is needed for protective clothing without affecting the comfort ability. Water repellency is defined as the ability of a textile material to resist wetting. The tendency of a water droplet to spread out over the fabric surface mainly depends on the contact angle of the water droplet and the fabric surface. Water repellent textiles have many uses including industrial, consumer and apparel purpose. This repellency can be achieved by implementing a thin surface layer of water repellent chemicals on textile fibres. Water repellency can be done by the modification of surface energy of textiles with minimal effects on other functional properties like strength, flexibility, breathability, softness etc. [1, 2] Polymeric coating on cotton fabric must secure good homogeneity with preferred properties without deteriorating fabric's comfort ability like handle, breathability etc. When a water repellent chemical is applied on cotton fibre, a monomer that was present in water repellent chemical with the help of initiator mixture are absorbed onto the fibres and made the fabric water repellent by formation of the polymeric chains and graft bonds inside the textile structure. Furthermore, textile materials with

modified surface can be obtained even by using low add-on of the monomer by the interpenetration of components and homogenous distribution of that monomers into the fibre.

There has been a market increase in the commercial use of fluorochemicals in recent years, particularly to impart water repellency to cotton. It has been reported that various types of fluorochemicals that are used for textile finishing, mainly used to impart water repellency along with oil repellency. [3-8]

Because of this wide and growing use of fluorochemicals, there are some different and sometimes conflicting views as to the most efficient and effective product among all fluorochemical based water repellent chemicals. It consists of perfluorinated carbon chains incorporating a polymer backbone with perfluoro groups as its side chains. [9] Some existing fluorochemicals are made with C8 carbon backbone chains that can release per fluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and other toxic and hazardous materials. Hence C6 based fluorocarbons were introduced, though their repellency performance and durability are less than C8 based ones. [10] Fluorochemical finishing chemicals are usually available as water emulsions and are used to fabric by the pad-dry-cure method with a curing temperature around 10-170°C for a couple of minutes. [4-7] The water repellent properties were evaluated by measuring contact angle, wettability, moisture absorption and vapour permeability.

The first group of water repellent finishing agents is dispersion of fluorine compounds, namely fluorocarbon. The final polymer, when applied to a fibre, should form a structure that presents a dense CF₃ outer surface for maximum repellency. A typical structure is shown in below

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Fig 1. The length of the perfluorinated side chains should be about 8 carbons. Co-monomers are X, Y, for example are stearyl- or lauryl-meth-acrylate, butyl-acrylate, methylol- or epoxy-functional acrylates.

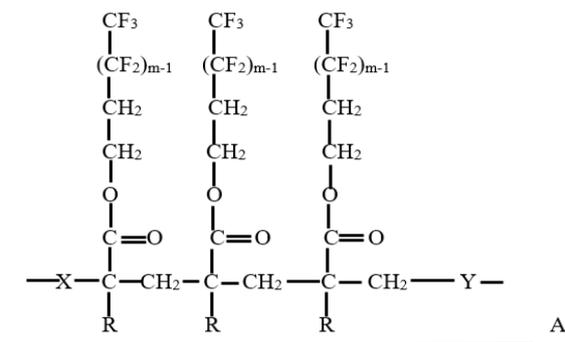


Figure 1. Fluorocarbon repellent on fibre surface. $M=8$. X and Y are co-monomers, mainly stearylates. $R=H$ or CH_3 (polyacrylic or polymethacrylic acid esters). A is the fibre surface. [11]

The second group water repellent chemical is fluorocarbon resin with polymeric, hyperbranched dendrimers in a hydrocarbon. It is a novel FC development, is inspired by nature and therefore called bionic finishes. Fluorocarbon polymers are applied together with dendrimers, where the fluorocarbon chains are enriched on the surface and crystallize with the dendrimers. Dendrimers are highly branched oligomers with non-polar chains forming a starbrush structure. They force the polar parts of the FC polymers to form the surface structure. The resulting polar and non-polar sandwich arrangements are highly ordered, causing better repellency effects, with lower amounts of fluorocarbon compared to dendrimer-free FC finishes.

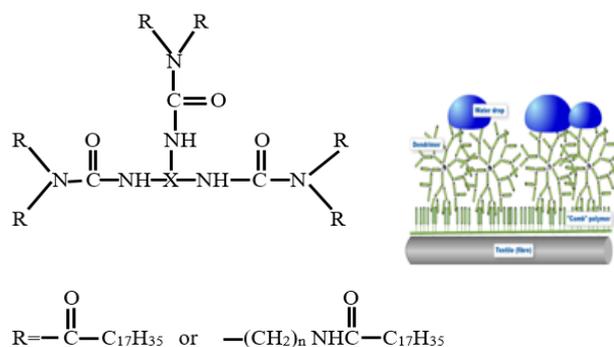


Figure 2. A dendrimer structure synthesized from three distearyl-amines or amides and a trifunctional isocyanate $X(N=C=O)$ [11]

Third group water repellent chemical structure is same as first one but fluorocarbon with isocyanate booster and the length of the perfluorinated side chains should be about 6 carbons. [11]

In the literature, a considerable number of studies on different water repellent chemicals, their application procedure, methods for upgrading the durability and their wash fastness and curing temperature have been reported. [12-15] There are almost insufficient work on the performance of fluorocarbon based water repellent finish

and their effects on 100% cotton fabrics properties. The purpose of this study was to observe and evaluate the performance of what water repellent finish and on which concentration are the most effective on both woven and knit fabric properties after finishing.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Fabrics

100% cotton one woven and one knit fabrics (scoured and bleached) were used for this experiment to apply different types of water repellent chemicals by pad-dry-cure method. The woven fabric was collected from local shops and knit fabric is provided by Essential Clothing Ltd, gazipur, Bangladesh. Knit fabric had single jersey (S/J) structure with 150 GSM and woven fabric had plain weave structure with 110 GSM. At first the fabrics were dyed by using following recipe in Butex lab.

Dye application bath

Recipe:

Dyestuffs:

NOVACRON® Yellow FN-2R: 0.20%

NOVACRON® Brilliant Red FN-3GL: 2.00%

NOVACRON® Blue FN-R: 0.20%

Auxiliaries:

ALBAFLOW® FFA-01 (Penetration accelerant): 0.3g/l

ALBATEX® DBC (Protective Colloid): 1.0g/l

Basic Chemicals:

Glauber's salt: 50g/l

Soda ash: 18g/l

Temperature: 60°C

Time: 30 min

M:L: 1:8

After treatment:

Hot wash at 90°C for 10 minute and then dry.

These fabrics presents a 0° contact angle with water, as the drops were absorbed immediately showing excellent hydrophilic character of cotton. Supplied fabrics were first dyed and then processed with three different water repellent chemicals in three different concentrations with three different curing temperatures to investigate the effect of water repellent chemicals, their concentrations and curing temperature on water repellency and it's durability after washing and other physical properties of the fabrics.

2.2. Water Repellent Chemicals

Three water repellent chemicals were used in this experiment. First water repellent chemical is fluorocarbon (FC), second is C6 fluorocarbon with dendrimers (FC+D) and third is C6 fluorocarbon with isocyanate booster (FC+B) and these water repellent chemical's trade names, types and properties of all the commercial grades for finishing are listed in Tab. 1. and found from respective chemical's brochure.

Table 1. Trade names and types of all water repellent chemicals are listed

Properties	FC	FC+D	FC+B
Manufacturer	Clariant	Rudolf	BASF
Trade name	Nuva TTC	Rucostar EEE6	Lurotex protector RP ECO
Appearance	Liquid, milky white dispersion	Beige emulsion	Pale yellow solution
Composition	Dispersion of fluorine compound	C6 fluorocarbon resin with polymeric, hyperbranched dendrimers in a hydrocarbon.	C6 fluorocarbon finish with an unblocked isocyanate booster
Ionicity	weakly cationic	Weakly cationic	Weakly cationic
p ^H	3.5	2-5	3-5
Dilutability:	Miscible in all proportions with cold water	Readily diluted with cold water	Miscible with cold water in all proportions

2.3. Water Repellent Application Bath

Woven and knit fabrics were treated with three different water repellent chemicals at three different concentrations (10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L) from a separate bath with the similar bath condition. Fluorocarbon (FC), fluorocarbon with dendrimers (FC+D) and C6 fluorocarbon with isocyanate booster (FC+B) water repellent chemical's solutions were prepared. The process parameters were adopted as recommended by the supplier. The name of chemicals, trade name and bath set up are given in Tab. 2. Pad-Mangle machine was used for padding with 2.5 m/min fabric speed and 2.8 kg/cm² padding pressure. Fine oven machine was used for drying and SDL Mini-Dryer Steamer was used for curing.

Table 2. Water repellent application bath

Finishing bath set up		FC	FC+D	FC+B
Name of chemicals	Resin	10, 30, 50 g/L	10, 30, 50 g/L	10, 30, 50 g/L
	Acetic acid	01 ml/L as required for p ^H 4-5	01 ml/L as required for p ^H 4-5	01 ml/L as required for p ^H 5
	Perapret Booster XLR	--	--	8% of the of fluorocarbon dosage
Application Parameters	Padding	80% pick up		
	Drying	110°C for 3 min		
	Curing temperature	140, 160, 180°C		
	Curing time	2 min		
	Padding Pressure	2.8 kg/cm ²		

2.4. Water Repellent Evaluation Test

Each samples were tested in the standard atmosphere, 25±2°C temperature and 65% RH after conditioning 24 hrs.

There are three types of water repellent evaluation tests were used.

- 1) **Absorbency test**
- 2) **Drop test** (it checks the contact angle)
- 3) **Spray rating test** (AATCC 22-2001 test method is used to evaluate the water repellency of the fabric. Spray rating tests were done by Spray Rating Tester by James H. Heal & Co. Ltd. Halifax, England).

Table 3. AATCC Spray Rating

AATCC Spray Rating	
Rating	Description
100	No sticking or wetting of the upper surface.
90	Slight random sticking or wetting of the upper surface.
80	Wetting of upper surface at sprat points.
70	Partial wetting of whole of upper surface.
50	Complete wetting of whole of upper surface.
0	Complete wetting of whole of upper and lower surfaces.

- 4) **Hydrostatic Head Test** (it means water permeability test by which how much the pressure is required to penetrate the water into the fabric is measured. After water repellent finish, it is necessary to know how much the pressure increased to force the water through a fabric. It was done by Shirley hydrostatic head tester, England according to AATCC 127 method.

2.5. Physical and Chemical Testing

- 1) **GSM test:** It was done by GSM cutter from James H. Heal & Co. Ltd. Halifax, England according to ASTM (D 3776-79) method.
- 2) **Air permeability test:** It was done by Air permeability tester by using ISO 9237 method
- 3) **Tensile strength test:** It was done for woven fabric according to ASTM D 5045 method by Good brand fabric strength tester
- 4) **Bursting strength test:** It was done by Trust burst tester according to ASTM (D 3786-87) method.
- 5) **Abrasion resistance:** The abrasion resistance was determined with the weight decreasing rate and it was done by Martindale abrasion tester following ASTM D4966 method.
- 6) **Color fastness to wash:** Color fastness to wash was measured with ISO 105 C03 method.
- 7) **Color fastness to water:** It was done by ISO 105 E01 method.
- 8) **Color fastness to perspiration:** The resistance of color against acid and alkali of dyed fabrics were done by ISO 105-E04 method.
- 9) **Rubbing fastness:** The resistance of color against rubbing of dyed fabrics (dry and wet) were evaluated with ISO-105-X 12 method.

3. Result and Discussion

Three individual fluorocarbon based water repellent resins such as fluorocarbon (FC), FC+dendrimers (FC+D) and FC+booster (FC+B) were chosen in this work and to evaluate the effect of different concentrations of that resins' solutions on water repellency, solution's concentrations were varied to 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L and were applied on plain weave woven and single jersey (S/J) knit dyed fabrics. Meanwhile, the effects of different curing temperatures were also determined on water repellency by varying curing temperatures (140°C, 160°C and 180°C). The durability of all the fluorocarbon finished cotton fabrics (woven and knit) were investigated after repeated laundering in terms of water repellency.

3.1. Water Repellency Evaluation Test

1) Absorbency test (Spot test)

In a pipette a solution of 1% direct red (Congo red) is taken and droplet of solution put on the different places of the fabric. The shape of the absorption area on the fabric is observed from below Fig 3. (a) Only scoured and bleached woven white fabric sample, two droplets are seen with 1.5 cm dia. as no water repellent chemical were present and for this reason, the drop get absorbed and spread on the surface

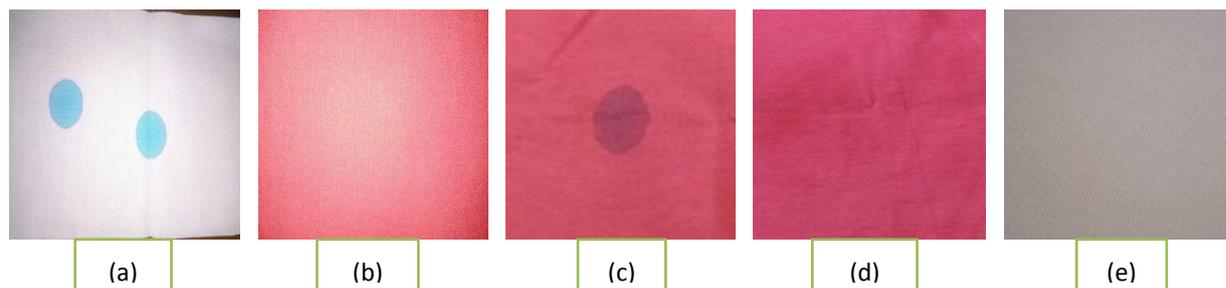


Figure 3. (a) For only scoured and bleached white woven fabric sample without finish, droplet is seen; (b) For dyed and finished woven fabric, the water droplets do no spread or get absorbed by the surface; (c) For only dyed S/J knit fabric, droplet was absorbed; (d) Dyed and finished S/J fabric, the liquid could not penetrate through the fabric surface; (e) Finished S/J white fabric, the liquid could not penetrate through the fabric surface and for that reason, the liquid drop could not be seen

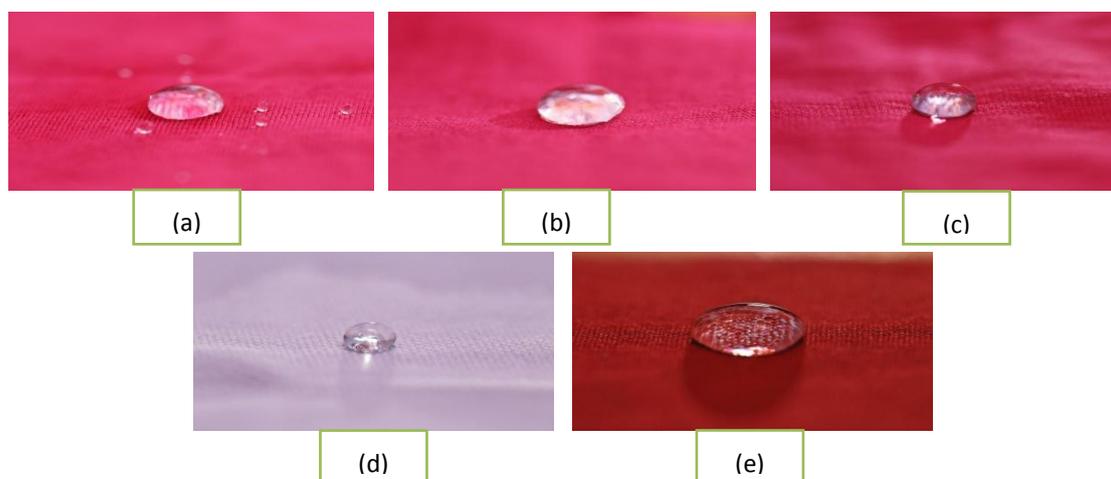


Figure 4. Some physical appearances of water droplet on untreated and treated fabrics; (a) S/J fabric dyed and finished with FC+B; (b) S/J fabric dyed and finished with FC+D; (c) S/J fabric dyed and finished with FC; (d) S/J white finished fabric with FC+D; (e) woven dyed and finished fabric with FC+D water repellent chemicals

of the fabric; (b) For woven fabric dyed and water repellent finished, the water droplets do no spread or get absorbed by the surface and so, in photography, the water drop can't be seen; (c) For only dyed S/J knit fabric, droplet was absorbed and spread with diameter of 1.8 cm as the fabric was only dyed without finishing, so the liquid easily penetrated through the fabric; (d) dyed and finished S/J fabric, the liquid could not penetrate through the fabric surface and that's why the liquid drop could not be seen on fabric, (e) Finished S/J white fabric after the absorbency test, the liquid could not penetrate through the fabric surface and for that reason the liquid drop could not be seen.

2) Drop test

This is the visual test to evaluate the water repellency. If the material has lower surface tension than water, then that material is called water repellent. When a water droplet is placed on water repellent material then the drop will rest up on it and will not penetrate. Here are some physical appearances of untreated and treated fabrics, showed that treated fabrics are water repellent. These physical appearances were taken by using following configurations

Camera: Canon EOS 80D

Lens: 100mm Macro Lens

Camera settings: f/2.8

3) Spray rating test

Fluorocarbon (FC), FC+dendrimers (FC+D) and FC+booster (FC+B) water repellent chemical's solutions were prepared in 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L concentrations and were applied on woven and S/J knit dyed fabrics with three different curing temperatures (140°C, 160°C and 180°C). These treated fabrics were evaluated by using AATCC 22-2001 method. The evaluated rating of the samples are given in chart in Figure 3. Schindler and Hauser described that by completing the pad-dry-cure process, the heat treatment changes perfluoro side chains to almost crystalline structures to achieve optimal water repellency [11]. Water repellency of woven fabrics treated with fluorocarbon resin, with or without crosslinking agent, are shown in Table 4 and Figure 5 respectively. Compared with the untreated fabric, the finished fabrics had good water repellency with around 80-100 grades.

Water repellency of S/J fabrics treated with fluorocarbon resins with cross linking agent (FC+D and FC+B) or without crosslinking agent, are shown in Table 5 and Figure 6 respectively. Water repellency decreased considerably with washing and recovered to some extent with heat treatment. The decrease of water repellency for the fabric treated with the resin containing the cross linking agents (FC+B) and resin containing dendrimers (FC+D) are smaller than that of the fabric treated with resin (FC) alone, and recovered almost completely after heat treatment. Compared with the untreated fabric, the finished fabrics had good water repellency with around 80-100 grades. Both woven and S/J fabrics showed lower water repellency at 140°C curing temperature as it is assumed that this curing temperature is not sufficient for proper cross linking of fluorocarbons.

Table 4. Spray rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature

Spray rating of woven fabric (before wash)				
Concentration (g/L)	Water repellent chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10 g/L	FC	70	80	90
	FC+D	80	80	90
	FC+B	80	80	90
30 g/L	FC	80	80	100
	FC+D	80	90	100
	FC+B	80	90	100
50 g/L	FC	80	90	100
	FC+D	80	100	100
	FC+B	80	100	100

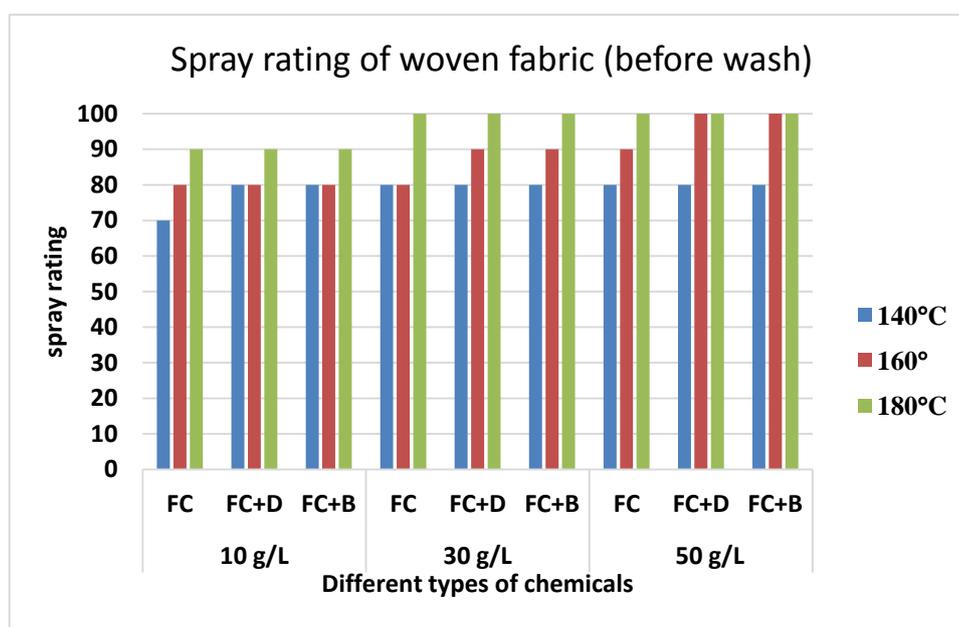
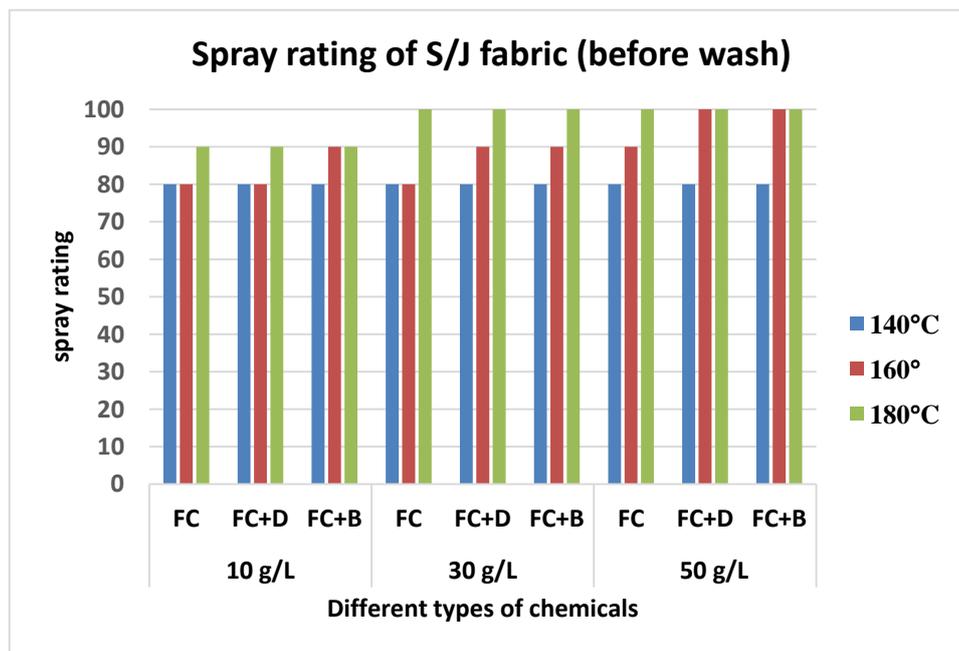


Figure 5. Spray rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature

Table 5. Spray rating of knit single jersey fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature(before wash)

Spray rating of knit S/J fabric (before wash)				
Concentration (g/L)	Water repellent chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10 g/L	FC	80	80	90
	FC+D	80	80	90
	FC+B	80	90	90
30 g/L	FC	80	80	100
	FC+D	80	90	100
	FC+B	80	90	100
50 g/L	FC	80	90	100
	FC+D	80	100	100
	FC+B	80	100	100

**Figure 6.** Spray rating of knit S/J (single jersey) fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature(before wash)**Table 6.** Spray rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 5 wash)

Spray rating of woven fabric (after 5 wash)				
Concentration (g/L)	Water repellent chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10 g/L	FC	70	80	90
	FC+D	80	80	90
	FC+B	80	80	90
30 g/L	FC	80	80	100
	FC+D	80	90	100
	FC+B	80	90	100
50 g/L	FC	80	90	100
	FC+D	80	100	100
	FC+B	80	100	100

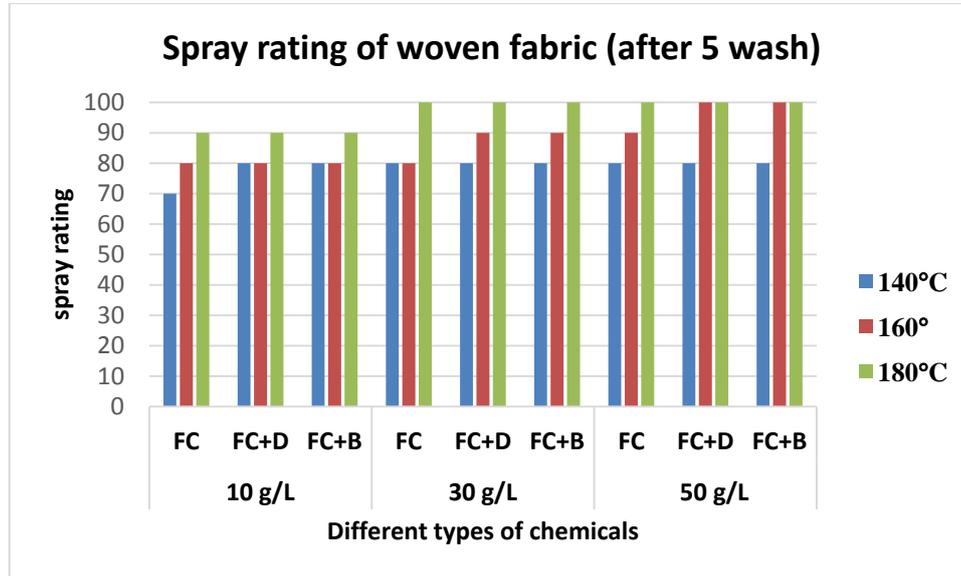


Figure 7. Spray rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 5 wash)

Table 7. Spray rating of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 5 wash)

Spray rating of Knit S/J fabric (after 5 wash)				
Concentration (g/L)	Water repellent chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10 g/L	FC	80	80	90
	FC+D	80	80	90
	FC+B	80	90	90
30 g/L	FC	80	90	100
	FC+D	80	90	100
	FC+B	80	100	100
50 g/L	FC	80	100	100
	FC+D	80	100	100
	FC+B	80	100	100

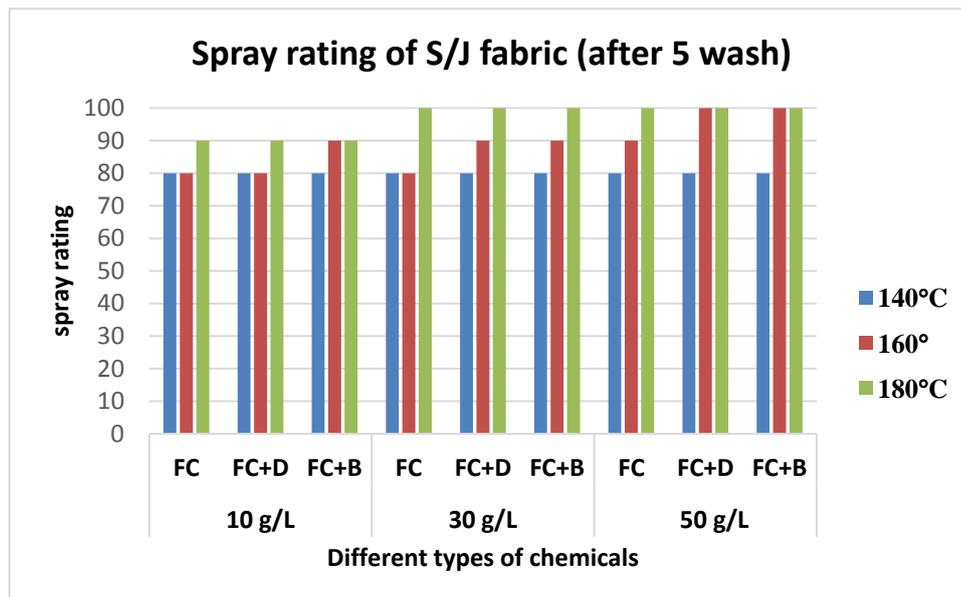


Figure 8. Spray rating of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 5 wash)

The durability of water repellency after repeated wash (after 5 wash) for woven fabric are shown in Tab. 6 and Fig: 7 and for S/J fabric are shown in Tab. 7 and Fig: 8 respectively. From these results, it is clear that adding 30 g/L and above than that concentrations (50 g/L) of resin treatment of cotton fabric are effective in suppressing the decrease in water repellency with washing. Usually, cellulose fibre swells in water and for that reason segments of cellulose molecules can easily move in the fibre during washing and drying.

Therefore, after treating with only fluorocarbon (FC) water repellent chemical, cellulose molecules chains of cellulose fibres are apt to move from the surface to the inner part of the fibre to avoid the hydrophilic conditions of washing, resulting a remarkable reduction in water repellency which is clearly evident from Table 8 and Figure 9 for woven fabric and Table 9 and Figure 10 for S/J fabric as well.

On the other, fabric treated with FC+B and FC+D resins has better water repellency because cross linking between cellulose molecules or cellulose and fluorocarbon resins restrains the rotation of the fluoroalkyl groups into the fibre during washing.

Table 8. Spray rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 15 wash)

Spray rating of woven fabric (after 15 wash)				
Concentration (g/L)	Water repellent chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10 g/L	FC	50	70	90
	FC+D	70	70	90
	FC+B	70	80	90
30 g/L	FC	80	80	100
	FC+D	80	90	100
	FC+B	80	90	100
50 g/L	FC	80	90	100
	FC+D	80	100	100
	FC+B	80	100	100

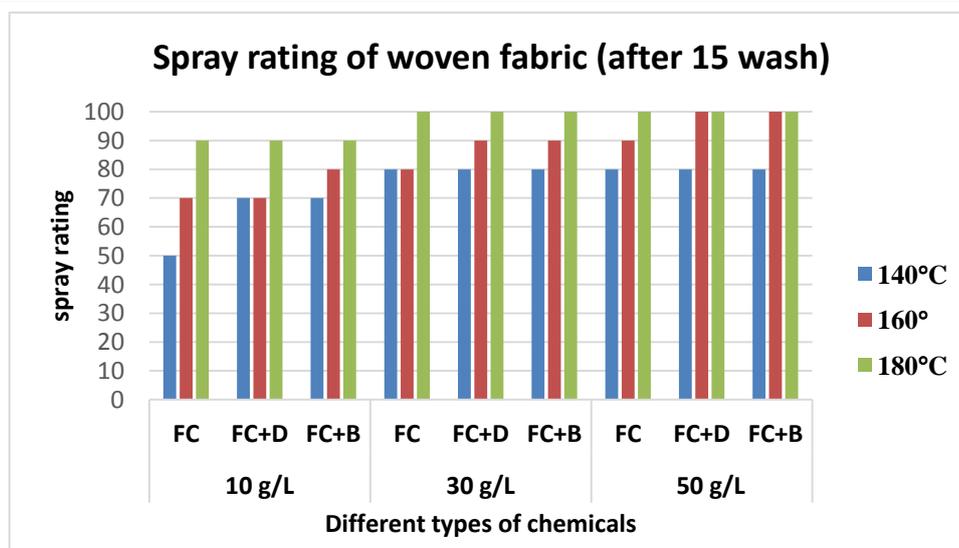


Figure 9. Spray rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 15 wash)

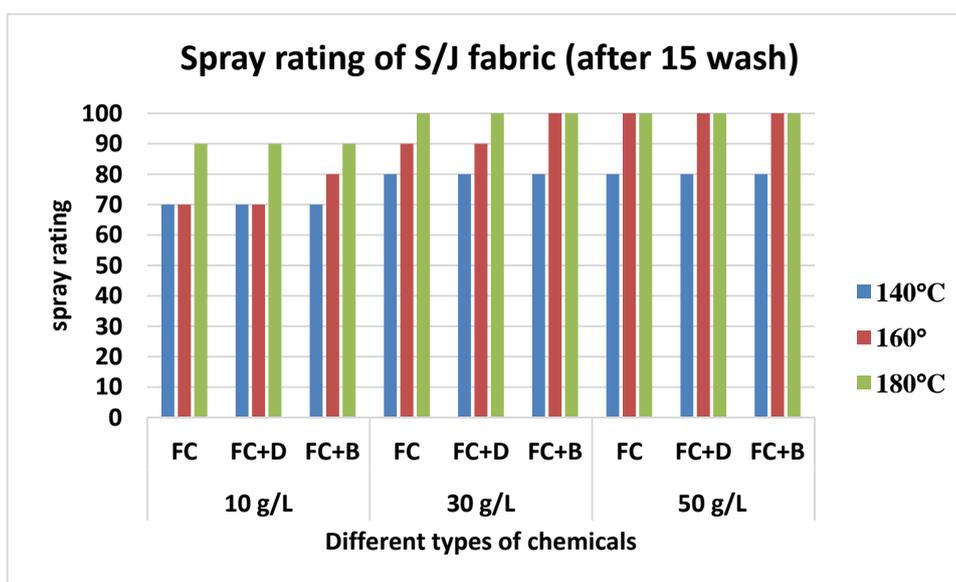
In 50 g/L concentration, water repellency rating of fluorocarbons for both woven and knit fabrics, we get better result comparatively with FC+B water repellent chemical for both fabrics with durability (15 wash) from 160°C and above curing temperature. In 30 g/L concentration, water repellency rating for both FC+D and FC+B water repellent chemicals above 160°C curing temperature show the best rating. Particularly for 10 g/L concentration and 140°C curing temperature, all fluorocarbons give the lowest results for all fabrics rather than others and in high concentration all the chemicals show better result for all fabrics with durability. In 10 g/L concentration and 140°C curing temperature, all fluorocarbons give the lowest results for all fabrics due to the lack of sufficient amount of resin and the proper heat treatment that are required to change perfluoro side chains to almost crystalline structures to achieve optimal water repellency [11].

4) Hydrostatic head test

The hydrostatic head test was done according to AATCC 127 method of woven and S/J fabrics after water repellent finish at various concentration which are stated below in Table 10 and Figure 11.

Table 9. Spray rating of knit S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 15 wash)

Spray rating of knit S/J fabric (after 15 wash)				
Concentration (g/L)	Water repellent chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10 g/L	FC	70	70	90
	FC+D	70	70	90
	FC+B	70	80	90
30 g/L	FC	80	90	100
	FC+D	80	90	100
	FC+B	80	100	100
50 g/L	FC	80	100	100
	FC+D	80	100	100
	FC+B	80	100	100

**Figure 10.** Spray rating of knit S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc. in different curing temperature (after 15 wash)**Table 10.** The hydrostatic head test of woven fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30g/L and 50g/L conc. at different curing temperature

Hydrostatic Head test(cm of water) of woven fabric				
Conc. (g/L)	Types of chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10	Untreated	10	10	10
	FC	11	11	11
	FC+D	11	11	12
	FC+B	11	11	12
30	Untreated	10	10	10
	FC	11	11	12
	FC+D	11	12	12
	FC+B	11	12	12
50	Untreated	10	10	10
	FC	11	12	12
	FC+D	12	13	13
	FC+B	12	13	13

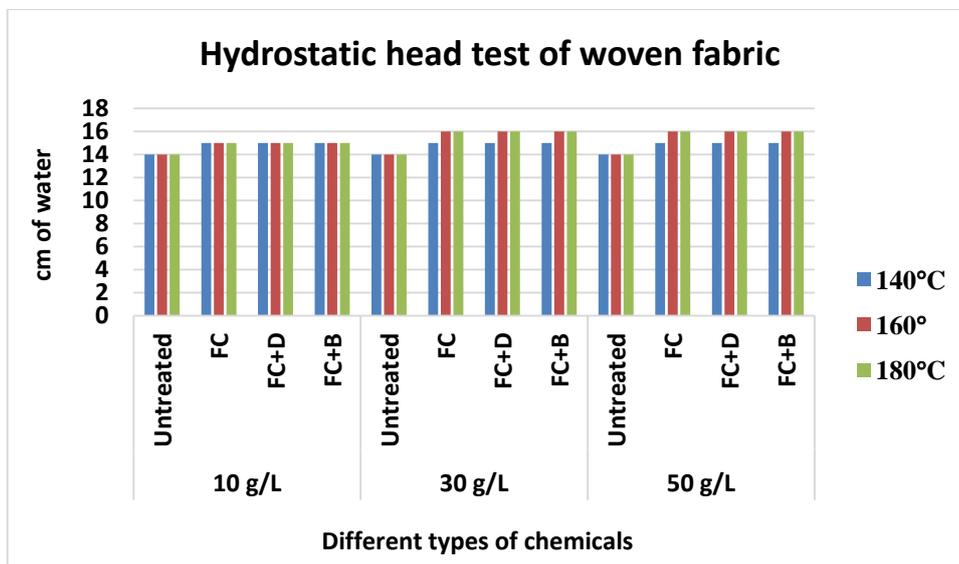


Figure 11. The hydrostatic head test of woven fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30g/L and 50g/L conc. at different curing temperature

Table 11. The hydrostatic head test of S/J fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30g/L and 50g/L conc. at different curing temperature

Hydrostatic Head test (cm of water) of knit S/J fabric				
Conc. (g/L)	Types of chemicals	140°C	160°C	180°C
10	Untreated	14	14	14
	FC	15	15	15
	FC+D	15	15	15
	FC+B	15	15	15
30	Untreated	14	14	14
	FC	15	16	16
	FC+D	15	16	16
	FC+B	15	16	16
50	Untreated	14	14	14
	FC	15	16	16
	FC+D	15	16	16
	FC+B	15	16	16

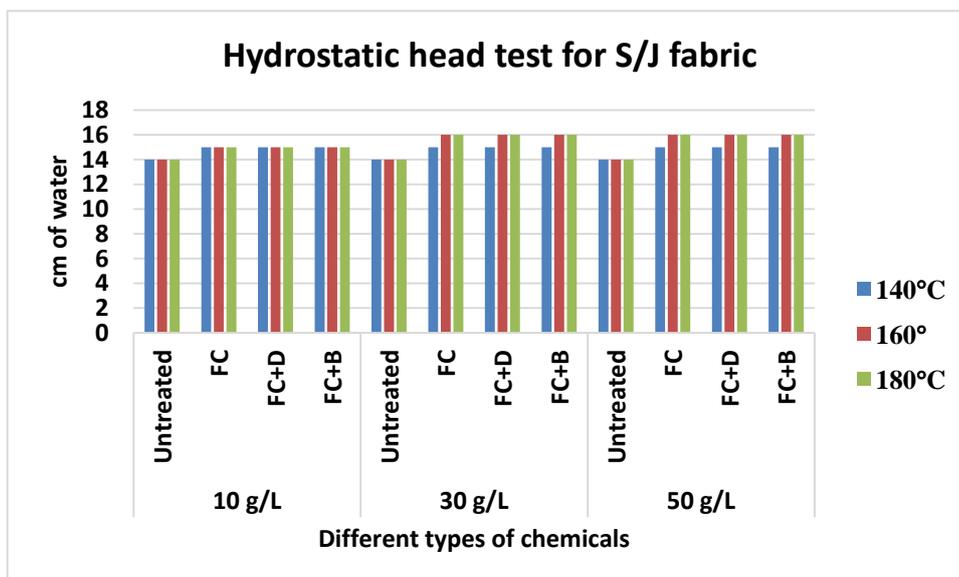


Figure 12. The hydrostatic head test of knit S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

This test is basically done for high density fabric like canvas or umbrella fabric. From the above chart it has been seen that the more pressure required to force water through the fabric and with the concentration increases, the pressure requires more and gradually from 30 g/L to 50g/L. An increase in repellent concentration caused an increase in wetting times of the fabric after finishing. Because the water repellent chemicals form a coating on the fabric and the more concentration of chemicals leads the higher density of the coating resulting increased water repellency.

3.2. Analysis of GSM

The GSM tests are done according to ASTM D 3776-79 method for all fabrics with different concentration at fixed 160°C curing temperature. The variation of GSM after finishing has given in below Table 12. and Figure 13.

After chemical implementation of woven and knit fabrics with various concentrations, GSM has increased because chemical has covered up all the pores of the fabric and a chemical coating is created on the fabric. Therefore, the water is not allowed to penetrate into the fabric.

3.3. Air Permeability Test

It was done by air permeability tester by using ISO 9237 method for all fabrics with different concentration at fixed 160°C curing temperature. The air permeability of the

fabrics decreased via water repellent finish. This may be because of the formation of cross linking networks after finish. The thin film formation on the surface of fabric after finishing, tighter constructions and small pore dimensions are some of the factors that affect the lower air permeability. In 10 g/L conc., water repellency rating of FC for both woven and knit fabrics, we get better result comparatively than FC+D and FC+B water repellent chemicals.

In 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc., air permeability rating for both FC+D and FC+B are lower than FC water repellent chemical. As in higher (30 g/L and 50 g/L) conc. all fluorocarbons give the highest results for all fabrics due to the lack of sufficient amount of resin and the proper heat treatment that are required to form film formation.

Tensile Strength Test

- 1) Tensile strength plays a vital role after water repellent finish. It was done according to ASTM (D 5045-87) method to evaluate the treated woven fabric's tensile strength. In here, in the chart the tensile strength of the cotton woven fabric shows slight deterioration occurs and it is obviously taken into account as resin crosslinks in amorphous region of cellulose leading lower flexibility and harsh handfeel. Though it is marginal for the fabric to go for the next proceedings.

Table 12. GSM of fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30g/L and 50g/L conc.

Fabric Name	Conc. g/L	GSM (before)	FC	FC+D	FC+B
woven	10	110	115	116	116
	30	110	118	117	117
	50	110	119	120	119
S/J	10	150	156	157	157
	30	150	158	160	159
	50	150	161	163	163

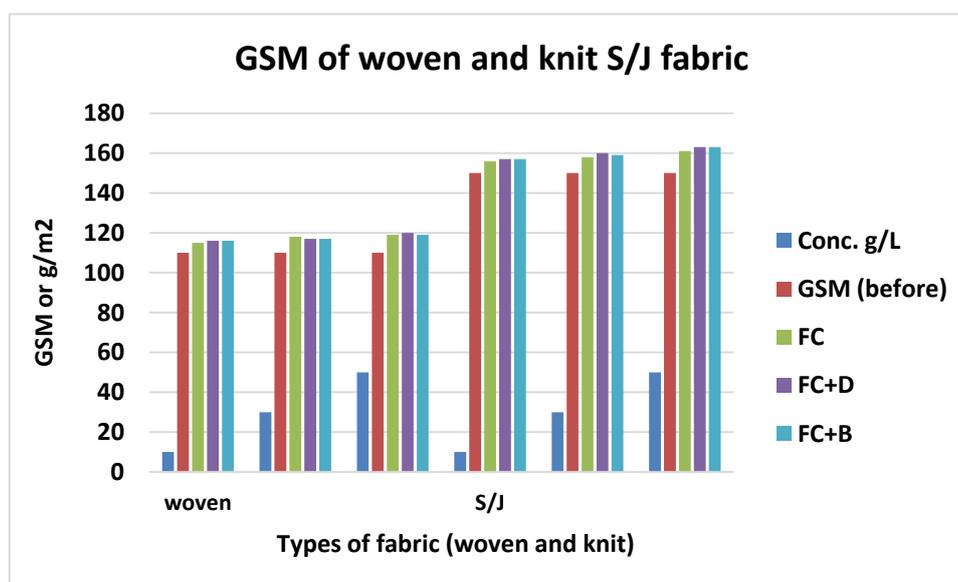
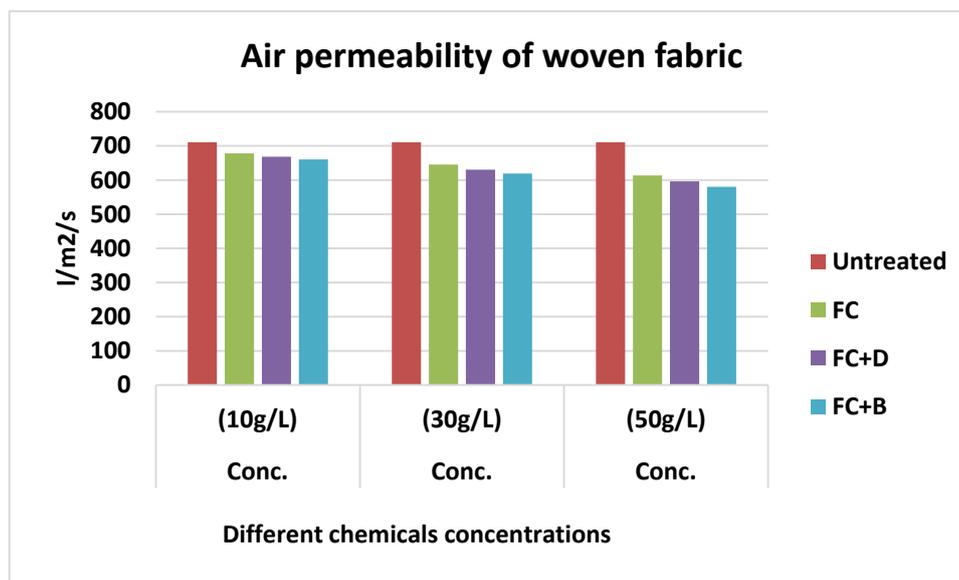


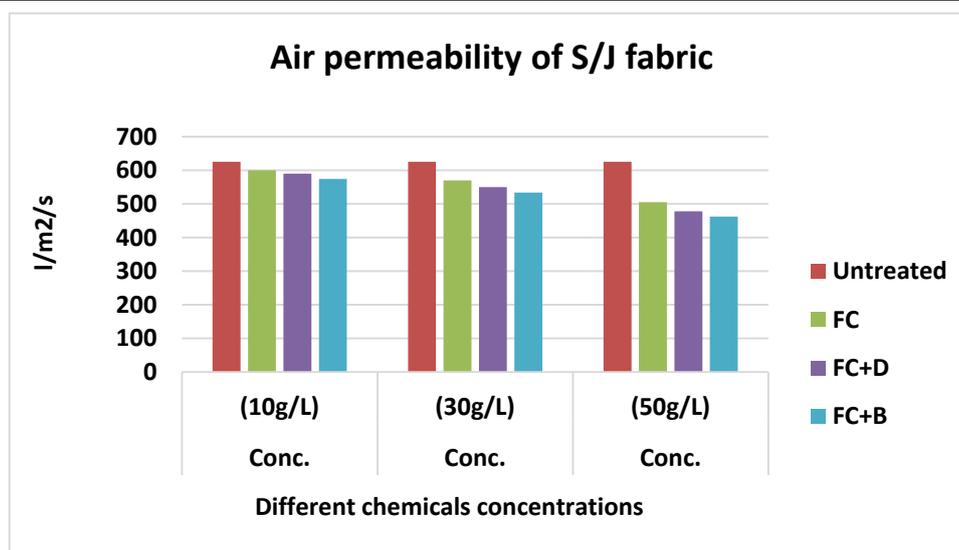
Figure 13. GSM of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50g/L conc.

Table 13. Air permeability test rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Air permeability test of woven fabric				
Types of fabric	Types of chemicals	Conc. (10g/L)	Conc. (30g/L)	Conc. (50g/L)
woven	Untreated	710.31	710.31	710.31
	FC	678.3	645.23	613.5
	FC+D	668.14	630.25	596.12
	FC+B	660.23	619.2	580.2

**Figure 14.** Air permeability rating of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.**Table 14.** Air permeability rating of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Air permeability test of S/J fabric				
Types of fabric	Types of chemicals	Conc. (10g/L)	Conc. (30g/L)	Conc. (50g/L)
S/J	Untreated	625.28	625.28	625.28
	FC	600.34	570.33	505.31
	FC+D	590.04	550.34	478.31
	FC+B	574.23	534.13	462.67

**Figure 15.** Air permeability rating of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

3.4. Tensile Strength of Woven Fabric

Table 15. Tensile strength of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Types of fabric	Types of chemicals	Conc. (10g/L)	Conc. (30g/L)	Conc. (50g/L)
woven	Untreated	65.0	65.0	65.0
	FC	58.7	54.4	54.1
	FC+D	57.2	54	53.9
	FC+B	57.9	53.3	52.6

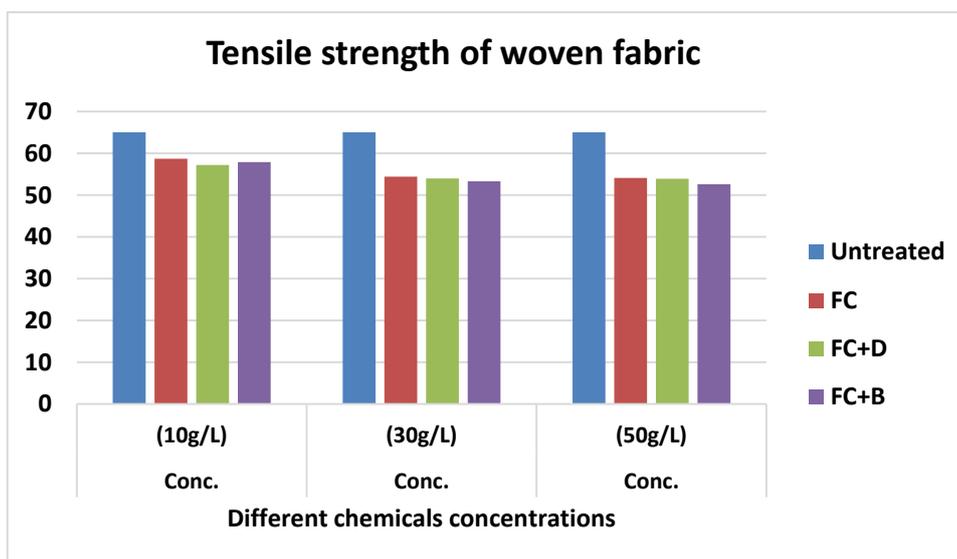


Figure 16. Tensile strength of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

3.5. Bursting Strength for S/J fabric

Table 16. Bursting strength test of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Types of fabric	Types of chemicals	Conc. (10g/L)	Conc. (30g/L)	Conc. (50g/L)
S/J	Untreated	135.12	135.12	135.12
	FC	127.9	124.2	122.9
	FC+D	128.2	123.5	122.2
	FC+B	128.3	123.9	121.3

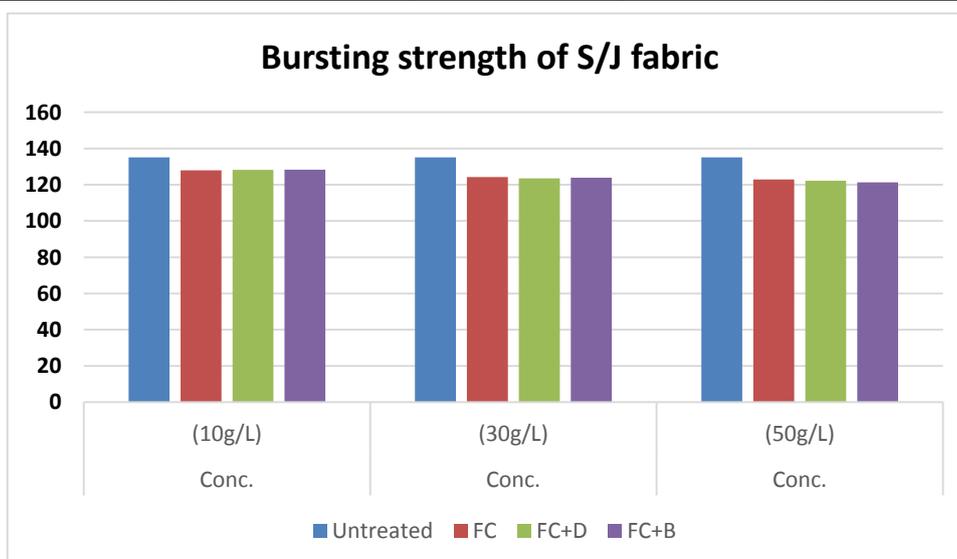


Figure 17. Bursting strength test of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

It was done by Trust brust tester according to ASTM (D 3786-87) method. From the above chart in Figure 17, it is clear that after water repellent finish the fabric strength is decreased and it's reasonable. The fabric strength is decreased by increasing of concentration. The bursting strength of knit fabric reduced because of effect of the cellulosic fiber during cross linking process. When the water repellent chemicals form cross link with the cotton free O-H group in the amorphous region, it makes stiff of the fabric and moreover, cross linking reaction is done mainly in acidic condition which are also responsible for the loss of the fabric bursting strength.

3.6. Abrasion Resistance

The abrasion resistances of the treated fabrics were determined with the weight decreasing rate. If the weight decreasing rate is less, it indicates the good abrasion resistance of the fabric and vice versa. The result was shown

in Table 17 and Figure 18 for woven fabric and in Table 18 and Figure 19 for S/J fabrics with different concentration at fixed 160°C curing temperature.

It could be seen that the abrasion resistance of the finished cotton fabric increased. This may be for the formation of the film on the cotton fabric after crosslinking of water repellent resins. For woven fabric, FC+D and FC+B both water repellent chemicals show good abrasion resistance than FC in all concentrations. On the other hand, 30 g/L and 50 g/L concentrations of all water repellent chemicals show better abrasion resistance than 10 g/L concentration. Because the density of the fabric was increased with the formed film, and the floating length of the yarn was shorter. It made the stiff nodal point formed with the sustaining point, the fibres squeezed each other during the abrasion process, which affected the relative movement. The stress centralized made the damage of the fabric.

Table 17. Abrasion resistance of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Abrasion resistance test of woven fabric				
Types of fabric	Types of chemicals	Conc. (10g/L)	Conc. (30g/L)	Conc. (50g/L)
woven	Untreated	2	2	2
	FC	2	3	3
	FC+D	2	3	4
	FC+B	2	3	4

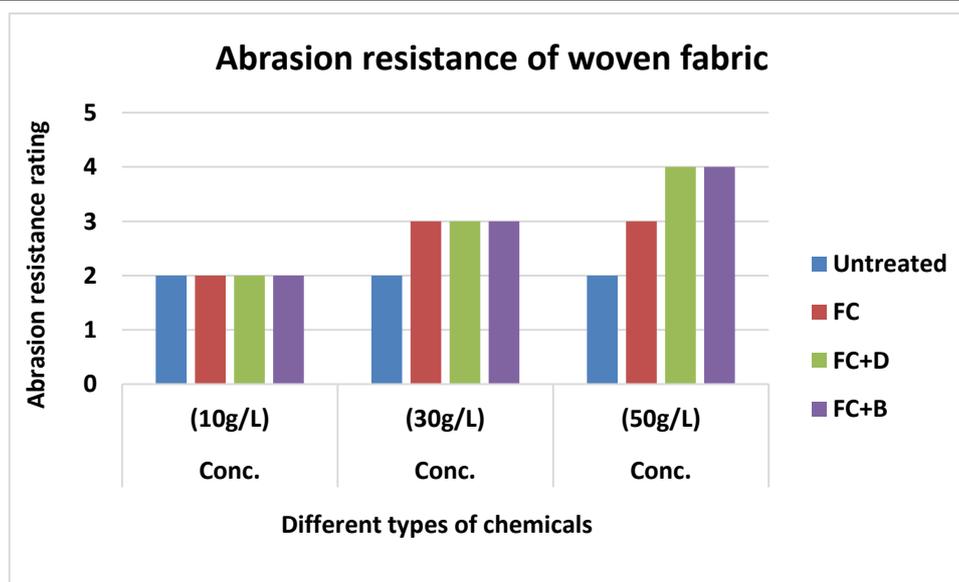


Figure 18. Abrasion resistance of woven fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Table 18. Abrasion resistance of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

Abrasion resistance of S/J fabric				
Types of fabric	Types of chemicals	Conc. (10g/L)	Conc. (30g/L)	Conc. (50g/L)
S/J	Untreated	2	2	2
	FC	3	3	4
	FC+D	3	4	4
	FC+B	3	4	4

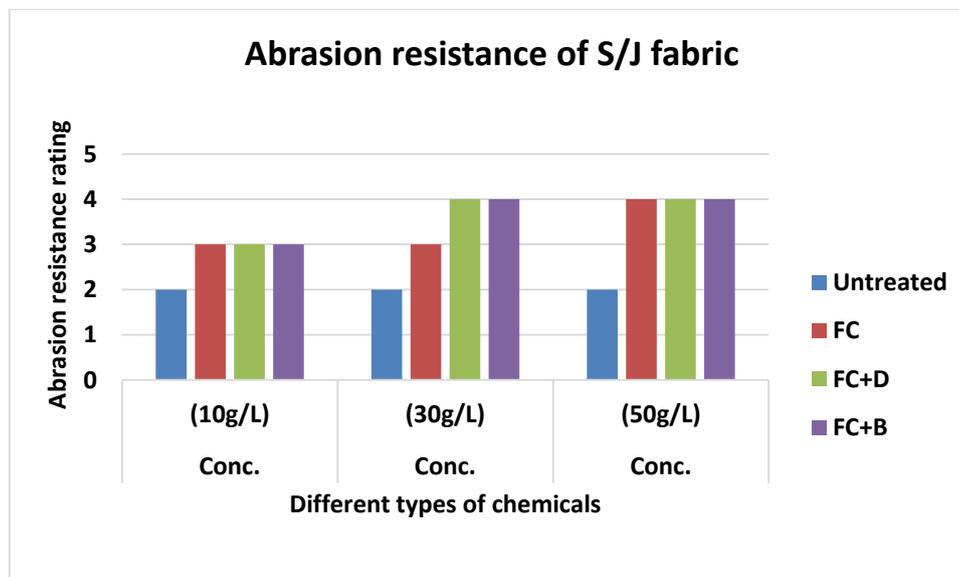


Figure 19. Abrasion resistance of S/J fabric treated with water repellent chemicals at 10 g/L, 30 g/L and 50 g/L conc.

3.7. Color Fastness to Wash

To evaluate the effect of wash fastness of water repellent treated fabrics are rated under grey scale for two types of measurement, one is for color change and another is for color staining. Color fastness to wash was measured with ISO 105 C03 method. The rated chart is given below in Table 19. At first the sample is washed with standard recipe and then color change is measured to the washed sample with the unwashed sample and compared. Color staining is also measured with grey scale with the help of multifibre.

The wash fastness of all water repellent chemicals were measured at 50 g/L concentration (conc.) as it showed the best water repellency and physical properties compared with other concentrations. The wash fastness of FC and FC+D water repellent chemicals shows better result than FC+B chemicals for both woven and S/J fabrics at 50 g/L conc. The improvement of wash fastness of water repellent finish is because of the dye molecules trapped inside the crosslinking film.

3.8. Color Fastness to Water

To evaluate the effect of water fastness of water repellent treated fabrics are rated under grey scale for two types of measurement, one is for color change and another is for color staining. Color fastness to wash was measured with ISO 105 E01 method. The rated chart is given below in Table 20. The

water fastness of all water repellent chemicals were measured at 50 g/L conc. The water fastness of FC and FC+D water repellent chemicals shows better result than FC+B chemicals for both woven and S/J fabrics at 50 g/L conc.

3.9. Color Fastness to Perspiration

The resistance of color against acid and alkali of dyed fabrics were done by ISO 105-E04 method. The rated chart is given below in Table 21. The fastness to perspiration of all water repellent chemicals were measured at 50 g/L conc. The fastness to perspiration of FC water repellent chemical shows better result than FC+D and FC+B chemicals for both woven and S/J fabrics.

3.10. Rubbing Fastness

The resistances of color against rubbing of dyed fabrics (dry and wet) were evaluated with ISO-105-X 12 method. The rubbing fastness of water repellent treated fabric with different concentration is rated under grey scale for the measurement of color staining against dry and wet white fabric. The rated chart of rubbing fastness for wet and dry rub is given below in Table 22. It shows that both dry and wet rub are increased after water repellent finish on conc. 50 g/L as water repellent chemical make a thin coating on fabric surface.

Table 19. Color Fastness to wash of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 50g/L conc.

Color fastness to wash (woven and S/J fabric)												
Sample	Unfinished			FC			FC+D			FC+B		
	Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining	
		Cotton	Wool									
Woven	4-5	4	5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4	3-4	4-5
S/J	4	3-4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	3-4	3	4-5

Table 20. Color Fastness to water of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 50g/L conc.

Color fastness to water (woven and S/J fabric)												
Sample	Unfinished			FC			FC+D			FC+B		
	Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining	
		Cotton	Wool									
Woven	4-5	4-5	5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4	4	4-5
S/J	4	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4	3-4	4-5

Table 21. Color Fastness to perspiration of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 50g/L conc.

Color fastness to perspiration (woven and S/J fabric)												
Sample	Unfinished			FC			FC+D			FC+B		
	Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining		Color change	Color staining	
		Acid	Alkali		Cotton	Wool		Cotton	Wool		Cotton	Wool
Woven	4	3-4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3-4	4
S/J	4	3	4	4	3-4	4	4	3	4	4	3	3-4

Table 22. Rubbing fastness of different fabrics treated with water repellent chemicals at 50g/L conc.

Rubbing fastness(woven and S/J fabric)									
Sample	Unfinished		FC		FC+D		FC+B		
	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	
Woven	4-5	4	4-5	4	4	3-4	4	3-4	
S/J	4	3	4-5	4-5	4-5	4	4-5	4	

From the data sheet (staining), it is found that for all three FC, FC+D and FC+B chemicals shows good rubbing (dry and wet) fastness than untreated ones for S/J fabrics. Whereas wet and dry rub staining for woven fabric shows slightly decreased for both FC+D and FC+B than untreated one, but it remain same for FC water repellent finish

4. Conclusions

In this study, the effect of fluorocarbon based water repellent finishes with varying concentrations and varying curing temperature were observed on the water repellency of 100% cotton (woven and knit) fabrics. To do so, 54 repellent treated fabrics samples were tested and obtained results were evaluated. Different physical and chemical test results showed that the repellent types and their concentration ranges significantly influenced water repellency of both woven and knit fabrics. When fluorocarbon with dendrimers (FC+B) was used, then the best water repellency with durability are obtained and this finish's durability was evaluated by repeated laundering. Changing concentration and curing temperature from lower to higher level, gives gradually increased water repellency, regardless of repellent chemical type. Water repellency was evaluated by drop test, contact angle, spray rating and hydrostatic head test. However, unlike the findings of previous research works which described that if the water repellent was used with higher concentration, strength is decreased. The repellent chemicals and their changing concentrations did not cause significant change to bursting strength of knit fabrics. But

higher curing temperature had cause strength loss. Higher concentration of chemicals gives increased abrasion resistance but decreased airpermeability. There was no remarkable deviation is observed in GSM on the basis of water repellent chemicals and their varying concentrations. A higher in repellent concentration caused a satisfactory wash, water, perspiration and rubbing fastness. The coloring finishes had no effect on water repellency is another important conclusion of this work.

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