

## D06L

**BLEACHING, e.g. OPTICAL BLEACHING, DRY-CLEANING, OR WASHING FIBRES, THREADS, YARNS, FABRICS, FEATHERS OR MADE-UP FIBROUS GOODS; BLEACHING LEATHER OR FURS (treatment of fibres of filaments of glass, mineral wool, or slag wool C03; chemical treatment of fibrous material to obtain fibres for spinning D01; for mechanical matters D06C, D06F; bleaching paper pulp or cotton linters D21; [N: softening compositions for textiles, cleaning compositions for carpets, upholstery, fur or leather C11D])**

### Definition statement

*This subclass/group covers:*

The bleaching with bleaching agents or brighteners as well as the dry cleaning or industrial washing of textile materials to remove impurities.

The chemical preparation of textile materials for subsequent chemical treatments like dyeing or the application of finishing agents.

### Relationship between large subject matter areas

The chemical finishing of textile materials [D06M](#).

### References relevant to classification in this subclass

*This subclass/group does not cover:*

Domestic laundering, compositions therefor	<a href="#">C11D</a>
The scouring of natural raw fibres for the removing of natural impurities, like straw for wool, natural waxes for cotton. The degumming of silk	<a href="#">D01C</a>
Mechanical aspects of the treatment of textiles and apparatuses used thereof	<a href="#">D06B</a> - <a href="#">D06C</a>

## D06L 1/00

**Dry cleaning or washing fibres, threads, yarns, fabrics, feathers or made-up fibrous goods**

## Definition statement

*This subclass/group covers:*

The dry cleaning or the industrial washing like desizing of textile materials as with organic or inorganic solvents, aqueous baths and compositions therefor.

They are thus prepared for subsequent treatment.

Domestic dry cleaning processes and compositions.

The regeneration of used chemical baths.

## Relationship between large subject matter areas

Home laundering compositions are classified in [C11D](#).

## References relevant to classification in this group

*This subclass/group does not cover:*

Washing machines	<a href="#">D06F</a>
Dry cleaning apparatuses	<a href="#">D06F 43/00</a>
Domestic spin dryers	<a href="#">D06F 49/00</a>

## Special rules of classification within this group

When the solvent is liquid CO<sub>2</sub> or in the supercritical state then it is recommended to classify in [D06L 1/00](#).

When enzymes compositions are used for the washing of textile materials, it is recommended to classify in [D06L 1/00](#).

Aqueous emulsions (mixture water / solvent) for washing are classified in [D06L 1/12](#) and its subgroups.

## D06L 3/00

**Bleaching fibres, threads, yarns, fabrics, feathers or made-up fibrous goods leather of furs [N: (dyeing and bleaching D06P1/0024)]**

## Definition statement

*This subclass/group covers:*

All chemical bleaching processes and compositions using oxidizing, reducing

or optical bleaching agents as well as enzymatic compositions; processes which are providing whiter textile materials than non treated textile materials.

In the present case, bleaching means fading of natural colour and not removal of dyes.

### Relationship between large subject matter areas

An overlapping might occur with [D06P 1/0024](#) which is covering the dyeing and bleaching in one combined process.

### References relevant to classification in this group

*This subclass/group does not cover:*

Bleaching of hair	<a href="#">A61K</a>
Removal of impurities from raw natural fibres, scouring or degumming	<a href="#">D01C</a>
The decolouration of dyed textile materials, fugitive dyeing or stripping dyes	<a href="#">D06P 5/13</a>
Locally discharging the dyes, discharge printing	<a href="#">D06P 5/15</a>
Stone washing	<a href="#">D06P 5/15</a> , <a href="#">D06P 7/00</a>

### Special rules of classification within this group

In case of overlapping with [D06P 1/0024](#), it is recommended to both classify in [D06L 3/00](#) or its subgroups as well as in [D06P 1/0024](#). It is also recommended to allocate other relevant [D06P](#) groups which are covering the dyeing aspects.

## D06L 3/11

### using enzymes

#### Definition statement

*This subclass/group covers:*

The bleaching of textile materials, leather or furs with compositions containing enzymes.

## Relationship between large subject matter areas

In this group, an overlapping might occur with enzymatic compositions [C12N](#).

## Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Detergent compositions containing enzymes	<a href="#">C11D 3/386</a>
Enzymes, enzymes compositions	<a href="#">C12N 9/00</a>
Immobilized enzymes	<a href="#">C12N 11/00</a>
Chemical treatment of textile materials with enzymes	<a href="#">D06M 16/00</a>

## D06L 3/12

### Optical bleaching

#### Definition statement

*This subclass/group covers:*

The optical bleaching or brightening of textile materials, i.e. the treatment of textile materials with compounds providing the effect of great whiteness, generally fluorescent colourless dyes which are reflecting more blue light.

#### Relationship between large subject matter areas

An overlapping might occur with [D06P 1/0012](#) which is covering the dyeing of textile materials with compounds to obtain luminescent or phosphorescent effects.

An overlapping might also occur with [D06P 1/0024](#).

#### References relevant to classification in this group

*This subclass/group does not cover:*

The dyeing of textile materials	<a href="#">D06P</a>
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#### Special rules of classification within this group

When the composition comprises a mixture of optical brighteners, it is recommended to allocate [D06L 3/125](#) but in case the composition comprises a mixture of optical brightener and dye, then [D06L 3/1257](#) or [D06L 3/1292](#) should be allocated.

### **Synonyms and Keywords**

In patent documents the following expressions/words "optical bleaching agents", "optical bleaching compounds" and "brightening agents" or "brighteners" are often used as synonyms.