

# **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ABSTRACTS ON EVALUATION OF FLUORESCENT WHITENING AGENTS 1929-1968**

Prepared by  
L. E. Weeks, J. L. Staubly,  
W. A. Millsaps, and F. G. Villaume

## **STP 507**



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## Foreword

Fluorescent whitening agents are essentially colorless dyes which when applied to textiles, papers, plastics, and other substrates absorb ultraviolet radiation and emit light of a bluish hue complementary to the yellow tint already present on the off-white substrate. In this manner the fluorescent whitening agents impart a greater apparent whiteness to the materials treated.

The literature on fluorescent whitening agent evaluation methods has grown to a point where a bibliography of the published methods should prove useful to the persons engaged in the manufacture, analysis, development, and evaluation of fluorescent whitening agents in detergents as well as other materials. Accordingly, this bibliography has been prepared by members of ASTM Committee D-12.15.05.

Some of the abstracts are based on the original article; others are re-abstracts from "Chemical Abstracts." In these articles and abstracts, fluorescent whitening agents are referred to as brighteners, optical bleaches, fluorescent brightening agents, optical brighteners, etc. ASTM Committee D-12.15.05. feels that fluorescent whitening agents more appropriately describes these compounds and is attempting to obtain universal acceptance for this terminology. The abbreviation FWA is proposed for fluorescent whitening agent.

It is hoped to keep these abstracts current. Interested readers are therefore urged to advise the authors of any corrections or additions to be made.

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