There is a higher labor cost involved in the stone washing process. Pumice Stones can cause damage to denim garments after stonewashing, so the machines can still be used for normal washing/dying processes. The stones are washed with the denim garments together in large washing machines. Pumice Stones can cause damage to washing machines through wear and tear. It can also be challenging for workers to remove the residue, dust and sludge that the stones produce after washing. There is a higher labor cost involved with Pumice Stones, since the stones and particles must be physically removed from the pockets of garments after stonewashing. Sand blasting is extremely hazardous to workers by irritating and burning the skin and eyes when workers come into direct contact with it. Without safe ventilation systems and equipment, factory workers are at risk for short-term and long-term health issues when working with this chemical.

Pumice Stones are used for stonewashing denim to give a faded, worn-out look to the fabric. The stones are washed with the denim garments together in large washing machines. Pumice Stones can cause damage to washing machines through wear and tear. It can also be challenging for workers to remove the residue, dust and sludge that the stones produce after washing. There is a higher labor cost involved with Pumice Stones, since the stones and particles must be physically removed from the pockets of garments after stonewashing.

Bleaching is a step in denim finishing that is used to decolorize indigo. The level of discoloration to the fabrics or garments depends on the amount of bleach used, the temperature, and duration of the wash process. The most widely used chemicals used in the industry are sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide, and potassium permanganate. Consistency can be challenging to achieve, and there may be variation in the appearance of multiple dye lots. The chemicals involved with bleaching can cause corrosion to machines, weaken the fabric, and high exposure can be harmful to workers.

Ozone is a powerful bleaching agent that is generated from oxygen. Ozone works quickly and requires fewer rinses compared to other bleaching methods. At the conclusion of the bleaching process, any remaining ozone is converted back into oxygen and water. Enzymes can be used as an alternative to harsh chemicals used during the bleaching process. Enzymes known as laccases alter the indigo dye through oxidation. Only the dye and appearance of the fabric is changed, so the fabric quality, strength and elasticity remain unchanged.

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