

FABRIC INFORMATION

Identifying fabric is important. More important is the comparison of fabrics. This makes us know the true quality of a fabric by differentiating it from its substitutes. The following chart gives complete information upon different types of fabric at a glance. It gives information about the weaves of the fabric, its characteristics and the uses, the important part of comparison.

Another table is given at the bottom, which shows the comparison of only the characteristics of few fabrics. For example, water retention is very high in cotton and the lowest in polypropylene. Same with the drying time taken is very long in cotton and vice versa in polypropylene. Cotton and wool shrinks more than polyester and nylon.

Acetate		Soft, crisp feel and durable.	Clothing, uniforms, lingerie, linings, Interlinings.
Acrylic		Durable, soft and wooly feel	Used as replacement of wool.
Camel hair	Twill or plain	Light weight, lustrous and soft.	Coats, women's suits, sports coats, sweaters, some blankets and put in some very expensive oriental rugs. Also used in (fine) over coating, top coating, hosiery and transmission belts.
Damask	Figured on Jacquard loom.	Reversible fabric with woven pattern. Sheds dirt.	
Denim	Twill – right hand – may be L2/1 or L3/1.	Originally had dark blue, brown or dark gray warp with a white or gray filling giving a mottled look and used only for work clothes. Comes in heavy and lighter weights.	Pants, caps, uniforms, bedspreads, slipcovers, draperies, upholstery, sportswear.
Drill	Twill.	Closer, flatter Wales that gabardine.	Uniforms, work clothes, slip covers, sportswear and many industrial uses.
Nylon		Very strong, resistant to both abrasion chemicals. It is elastic, easy to wash and is quite lustrous. It returns easily to its original shape and is nonabsorbent. It is fast drying, resistant to some dyes.	Women's hosiery, knitted or woven lingerie, socks and sweaters

Oxford	Plain variations - usually basket 2 x 1.	Warp has two fine yarns which travel as one and one heavier softly-spun bulky filling which gives it a basket-weave look. Rather heavy.	Men's shirts mostly. Summer jackets, shirts, skirts, dresses, and sportswear.
Polyester		It is lightweight, strong and resistant to creasing, shrinking, stretching, mildew and abrasion. It is readily washable and is not damaged by sunlight or weather and is resistant to moths and mildew.	Vary, depending on blend.
Sateen	Sateen filling-face Weaves	Lustrous and smooth with the sheen in a filling direction. Better qualities are mercerized to give a higher sheen	Dresses, sportswear, robes, pajamas.
Taffeta	Usually plain with a fine cross rib.	It is smooth with sheen on its surface. The textures vary considerably. They have a crispness and stiffness	Dressy evening wear: suits and coats, slips, ribbons, blouses, dresses.
Wool		It is very resilient and resistant to wrinkling. It is renewed by moisture and well known for its warmth.	Clothing, blankets, winter wear.

FABRIC CHARACTERISTICS

	Cotton	Wool	Polyester	Polypropylene	Nylon
Water Retention	High	High	Low	Lowest	Medium
Drying Time	Long	Long	Short	Shortest	Short
Heat Conduction (Wet)	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Comfort Level (Dry)	High	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Shrinkage	High	High	Low	High	Low
Durability	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High
Color Choice	High	High	High	Low	High
Paddling Suitability	Low	Low	High	Medium	Medium
Camping Suitability	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium