

We've put together this handy table to help you understand different fabric types and what they're used for.

FABRIC NAME	FIBRE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	USED FOR
<b>Acetate</b>	Manmade fibre (natural polymer)	A shiny fabric that's not very strong but rarely shrinks and has a wonderful drape to it	Bridal and evening wear and often used for linings.
<b>Acrylic</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	A wool like texture, colourfast, washable, strong and warm	Sweaters, sportswear, knits and upholstery
<b>Batiste</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or blend	Lightweight, delicate and sheer. Drapes well	Often used for baby clothes and blouses, handkerchiefs and lingerie
<b>Bouclé</b>	Natural fibre (wool) or blend	Usually made from wool, this has a looped or knotted surface	Coats, jackets, suits
<b>Broadcloth</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or blend	Tightly woven and may have slight ridge. Very strong and soft	Shirts, skirt and quilt backings
<b>Brocade</b>	Natural fibre (silk, cotton) or blend	Rich fabric woven with an all over raised design. Crisp so doesn't drape well	Evening and formal clothing
<b>Calico</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Tightly woven inexpensive fabric	Dresses, aprons, quilts and toiles
<b>Cambric</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Lightweight, plain weave but densely woven	Linens, shirtings, handkerchiefs, childrens wear, nightdresses.
<b>Canvas</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, linen)	Plain weave, heavy weight, strong	Bags, backpacks, tents
<b>Cashmere</b>	Natural fibre (wool)	Expensive fabric. Soft and airy wool from the Cashmere goat, woven into fabric	Coats, jackets, trousers, nightwear
<b>Challis</b>	Natural fibre or blend	Lightweight woven fabric. Soft, fluid and easily washable	Dresses, blouses and skirts that need to drape well
<b>Chambray</b>	Natural fibre (cotton or linen)	Light to mid weight plain woven fabric with a coloured warp (usually blue) and a white weft.	Mens shirting, dresses and blouses
<b>Charmeuse</b>	Natural fibre (silk) or manmade	Luxurious, supple fabric, shiny on one side, excellent drape, medium weight	Evening wear, lingerie
<b>Cheesecloth</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Loosely woven, lightweight fabric which has slightly crinkly appearance	Blouses, shirts and summer dresses
<b>Chenille</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or manmade	A heavy, velvet-like fabric with the pile or nap on one side only. It drapes well and is soft	Jackets, shirts, loose tops, bathrobes
<b>Chiffon</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, silk) or manmade	A lightweight, sheer fabric with an irregular surface and slightly rough feel. Tricky to work with	Evening wear, especially as an overlay, blouses, scarves and lingerie.
<b>Chintz</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Plain weave fabric with a shiny, almost wax-like surface and usually an all over bold print	Curtain making, bedding or bags
<b>Corduroy</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Mid to heavy-weight cotton with distinct ribs on the lengthwise grain. The number of the ribs (or wales) per cm can vary from needlecord to jumbo cord	Jackets, trousers, skirts and pinafores
<b>Cotton</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Made from the fluffy seed pods of the cotton plant. It's hardy, breathable, heat resistant and absorbs moisture	Most garments as it comes in different weights to suit different needs
<b>Crêpe</b>	Natural fibre (silk, wool) or manmade	A general term for all fabrics which are made by twisting the fibres to create a crinkled texture. Doesn't crease easily	Evening dresses, trousers and suits
<b>Crêpe de chine</b>	Natural fibre (silk)	The highly twisted fibres give this is a crinkled surface. Comes in three different weights	Blouses, lingerie, dresses and trousers

# FABRIC KNOW-HOW

FABRIC NAME	FIBRE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	USED FOR
<b>Damask</b>	Natural or manmade fibre or a blend	A glossy fabric which has flat reversible patterns woven in	Table linen and soft furnishings
<b>Denim</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	The warp and weft threads are different colours with one dominating on the surface. Hardwearing	Jeans, jackets, skirts
<b>Duchesse satin</b>	Natural fibre (silk) or manmade	High quality satin with a lustrous sheen	Bridal and evening wear
<b>Duck</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Tightly woven, heavy weight, plain weave fabric	Trousers and workwear
<b>Faux fur</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Woven fabric covered with hair to resemble real fur, also called Fun Fur	Outerwear, children's costumes
<b>Felt</b>	Natural fibre (wool, bamboo) or manmade	Non woven fabric where fibres are pressed together. Doesn't fray and comes in varying thicknesses	Craft projects, soft toys
<b>Flannel</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, wool) or manmade	A soft twill weave that is brushed on one or both sides for softness	Shirts, nightwear
<b>Flannelette</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Soft and lighter weight than flannel and only brushed on one side	Shirts, pyjamas and bedding
<b>Fleece</b>	Natural fibre (wool) or manmade	Knit fabric with a deep soft pile that stretches across the grain	Jackets, tops, childrenswear
<b>Gaberdine</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, wool) or manmade	Strong, tight weave with diagonal ribs (twill) woven across. Crease resistant	Suits, coats
<b>Georgette</b>	Natural fibre (silk)	Sheer fabric with highly twisted yarns which gives it a grainy feel but is soft, fluid and strong	Scarves, blouses and evening wear
<b>Gingham</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or blends	Check patterned fabric with two tone, contrasting checks	Dresses and shirts
<b>Habotai</b>	Natural fibre (silk)	Lightweight, plain weave, soft and glossy	Summer blouses, lingerie or linings
<b>Hessian</b>	Natural fibre (jute)	Loosely woven, heavy, plain wave fabric. Also known as Burlap	Bags and upholstery
<b>Ikat</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Handwoven fabric where the warp and weft threads are dyed different colours before being woven into intricate designs	Trousers, shirts, dresses
<b>Jersey</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, wool, silk) or manmade	General term for knitted fabrics from fine to heavier weights including single, double and interlock jerseys. Stretchy and crease resistant	T-shirts, dresses and casualwear
<b>Lace</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or manmade	Decorative, open fabric made by knitting or looping yarns. Can be hand or machine made	Often used as an overlay on other fabrics for formal wear or as a decoration.
<b>Lamé</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer) with metallic threads	Woven or knitted lustrous fabric with a high surface sheen	Evening and dancewear
<b>Lawn</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, linen)	Fine, lightweight fabric with a crisp finish and crease resistant	Summerwear, nightwear and handkerchiefs
<b>Leather</b>	Natural	Created by tanning animal hides. Comes in a variety of weights and colours. Synthetic faux leather is similar but easier to stitch with	Bags, belts, trousers and skirts
<b>Linen</b>	Natural fibre (from flax)	Smooth surface, often with slub, breathable, strong, creases easily. More lustrous than cotton	Blouses, dresses, lightweight jackets and trousers
<b>Lycra</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Trademark name for a brand of Spandex fibre. Strong and very stretchy	Sportswear
<b>Madras</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Handmade fabric originating from Madras, India. Features striped, plaid or check patterns	Shirts and dresses

# FABRIC KNOW-HOW

FABRIC NAME	FIBRE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	USED FOR
<b>Modal</b>	Manmade fibre (natural polymer)	Resilient to shrinking and fading. Soft, absorbent and cool to touch.	Underwear, bedding and towels
<b>Moleskin</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Heavy, durable with a short velvety nap resembling suede	Trousers and jackets
<b>Muslin</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Lightweight, inexpensive fabric with a linen type weave	Making test garments, backing and lining
<b>Net</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Open fabric made by weaving, knitting or knotting	Underskirts, costumes, dance wear
<b>Nylon</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Strong, stretchy, quick drying and strong. Often blended with natural fibres	Outdoor clothing, jackets and bags
<b>Oilcloth</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Plain weave fabric usually plastic coated to make it wipeable and weatherproof	Tablecloths, bags and rainwear
<b>Organdy</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or manmade	Sheer, stiffened and lightweight. Crisp and prone to creasing	Summer wear and costumes
<b>Organza</b>	Natural fibre (silk) or manmade	Plain weave, sheer fabric	Bridal and evening wear or sheer curtains
<b>Percalé</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Soft and smooth, made from combed cotton	Summer wear and light bedding.
<b>Piqué</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Medium weight cotton with a waffle weave texture	Blouses and children's clothes
<b>Plaid</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, wool) or manmade	A checked, woven design made from a variety of fabric weights	Clothing and soft furnishings
<b>Plush</b>	Natural fibre or manmade	Deep, soft pile fabric. Often knitted so it has some stretch	Soft toys, jackets, costumes
<b>Polyester</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Strong, soft and supple and doesn't crease. Dries quickly	All clothing types and sportswear
<b>PVC</b>	Manmade	Waterproof with a rubbery texture	Outdoor uses, costumes and tablecloths
<b>Poplin</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Lightweight fabric with fine cross ribs. Soft and durable and less prone to creasing than plain cotton	Dresses, skirts and shirts
<b>Rayon</b>	Manmade fibre (natural polymer)	Soft, drapes well and highly absorbent	Shirts, skirts and dresses
<b>Rip stop nylon</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Lightweight, strong, wind and water resistant	Outdoor and camping equipment, jackets and sportswear
<b>Sateen</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Satin weave fabric, soft, durable with a gentle lustre	Bed linen, linings
<b>Satin</b>	Natural fibre (silk) or manmade	Smooth, shiny and drapes well	Lingerie, nightwear, evening wear
<b>Seersucker</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, silk) or manmade	Crinkled, puckered effect created during the weaving process. Lightweight and cool	Summer wear
<b>Shantung</b>	Natural fibre (silk)	Medium weight with slub effect and light lustre	Dresses, bridal wear
<b>Sheer</b>	Natural fibre (cotton) or manmade	Generic name given to lightweight, semi transparent fabrics usually with an open weave	Lingerie, evening wear, lightweight curtain panels
<b>Silk</b>	Natural fibre	Strong, lustrous fabric. Comes in a variety of weights and qualities.	Lingerie, nightwear, evening wear
<b>Spandex</b>	Manmade fibre (synthetic polymer)	Elastic fibres with high stretch that retains its natural shape. Commonly known as Lycra - one of its brand names.	Sportswear, activewear and shapewear
<b>Suede</b>	Natural	Leather which has a velvety napped surface and less durable than leather. Faux suede is similar but easier to stitch with.	Jackets, skirts and bags
<b>Taffeta</b>	Natural fibre (silk) or manmade	Crisp, smooth feel with a slight ribbed effect and body	Evening and bridal wear

# FABRIC KNOW-HOW

FIBRE NAME	FIBRE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	USED FOR
<b>Tartan</b>	Natural fibre (wool) and manmade	Alternating bands of different coloured threads are woven to create checked patterns. Available in a variety of designs	Traditional kilts, skirts, dresses
<b>Terry cloth</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, linen)	Looped pile which is very absorbent. Also called terry towelling.	Towelling, bathrobes, children's clothing
<b>Ticking</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Closely woven twill fabric which has white or natural coloured yarns woven with colours to make stripes	Bedding, upholstery
<b>Tulle</b>	Natural fibre (silk) or manmade	Finely woven, mesh fabric. Lightweight and softer than net	Skirts, costumes and veils
<b>Tweed</b>	Natural fibre (wool)	Warp and weft are different colours woven together to make distinctive patterns. Hardwearing with a slight slub	Jackets, hats, suits, soft furnishings
<b>Twill</b>	Natural fibre or manmade	Generic name for a fabric woven with diagonal ribs. Smooth, soft finish and its weave makes it durable	Coats, jackets
<b>Velour</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, wool) or manmade	Similar to velvet with an uneven pile but it has some stretch	Leisure wear and evening wear
<b>Velvet</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, silk) or manmade	Thick, soft pile. Frays easily but luxurious finish and drapes well	Evening wear
<b>Velveteen</b>	Natural fibre (cotton)	Short, dense pile with less sheen and drape than velvet but more body	Jackets, skirts and soft furnishings
<b>Vinyl</b>	Manmade	Resembles leather and made from PVC	Bags, raincoats and tablecloths
<b>Viscose</b>	Manmade fibre (natural polymer)	Can be matte or shiny with a silky, smooth feel and drapes well	Bridal wear and linings
<b>Voile</b>	Natural fibre (cotton, linen) or manmade	Soft, sheer, lightweight fabric with a loose weave	Overlays on other fabrics in dressmaking or curtain panels
<b>Wool</b>	Natural fibre	Woven from the hairs of animals including lambswool, angora, cashmere, mohair, alpaca or camel. Naturally stain and crease resistant, good at heat retention and absorbent.	Coats, suits, dresses, trousers
<b>Worsted</b>	Natural fibre (wool)	Tightly woven fabric with a smooth, hard surface	Suits, jackets



**MAKE  
THE MOST  
OF YOUR  
FABRIC STASH!**