

Fabric Properties Chooser Chart No.1

You can use the information in the two charts here to help you choose fabrics for your design. Remember it is always worthwhile checking your choice by using simple tests and investigations.

Name and composition	Weight	Drape	Appearance	Strength
Calico unbleached 100 % cotton	●●●●	●●	stiffish weave, creamy colour	●●●●
Calico bleached 100% cotton	●●●●	●●	stiffish weave, white	●●●●
Cotton heavy or medium duty 100% cotton	●●●●	●●●	softer weave than calico, creamy or white; plain colours or coloured prints	●●●●
Cotton lawn 100% cotton	●●	●●●●	soft but slightly stiff weave, white/colours, slightly see-through	●●●
Muslin 100% cotton	●	●●●	very soft loose weave, creamy or white, more see-through than lawn	●
Polyester (plain weave) 100% polyester	●●	●●●	varied	●●●●
Polyester-cotton (plain weave) 65% polyester / 35% cotton	●●	●●●	smoothish plain weave, plain or patterned colours	●●●●
Nylon, waterproof 100% nylon	●	●●	coated woven fabric, plain colours	●●●●
Nylon, net 100% nylon	●	●	net fabric, quite stiff and brittle, variety of colours, Lurex and rainbow net also available	●
Fur fabric 67% acrylic 33% modified acrylic	●●●	●●	woven or knitted, variety of colours and patterns	●●
Metallic fabric 55% metallic polyester 45% nylon	●	●●●	usually woven, often silver or gold	●●
Hessian 100 % jute	●●/●●●	●●/●●●	woven, variety of weights, colours and textures, paper-backed available, rather scratchy	●●●
Silk (pongee) 100% silk	●	●●●●	woven, smooth weave, variety of light/fine weights	●●●
Wool (flannel) 100 % wool	●●/●●●	●●●	woven, slightly textured, variety of colours	●●●
Vilene	varies	N/A	non-woven interfacing, different weights, usually black or white, iron on or stitch in	●/●●●

Fabric Properties Chooser Chart No.1 (cont'd)

The greater the number of blobs the greater the property in question, e.g.

For weight:

● indicates light weight ●●●● indicates heavy weight

For inflammability:

● indicates not very inflammable ●●●● indicates very inflammable

Resilience	Absorbency	Inflammability	Aftercare	Cost
●●	●●●●	●●●●	cotton wash, hot iron, may shrink	●
●●	●●●●	●●●●	cotton wash, hot iron	●
●●	●●●●	●●●●	cotton wash, hot iron, if pre-shrunk won't shrink again	●●●
●●	●●●●	●●●●	cotton wash, hot iron, damp iron	●●/●●●
●●	●●●●	●●●●	cotton wash, hot iron, take care, reshape, damp iron	●
●●●●	●	●●●● melts	synthetics wash, polyester iron, use fabric softener	●●●
●●●	●●	●●●● some melt	synthetics wash, polyester iron, minimum iron	●●●
●	N/A	●●●● melts	low synthetics wash, cool or no iron	●●●
●	N/A	●●●● melts	low synthetics wash, no iron	●●/●●●
●●●	●	acrylic ●●●● modified acrylic ●	synthetics wash, no iron, brush up pile	●●●●
●●●	●	●●●● melts	synthetics wash, no iron	●●●●
●	●●●●	●●●●	low cotton wash, medium iron, reshape	●●●
●●●	●●●●	●●	often hand wash, cool iron	●●●/●●●●
●●●	●●●	●●	wool wash or no wash, warm iron	●●●/●●●●
●●●	N/A	●	as items fused to but can become unfused in hot washes	●