

Fabric Types Reference Guide

The printable companion guide to support your sewing projects.

NON-STRETCH

FABRIC TYPE	PROJECT TYPE							
	Blouse	Dress	Lining	Outerwear	Pants	Shirt	Skirts	Suiting
Batik	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Batiste	✓		✓					
Bemberg			✓					
Bouclé				✓			✓	✓
Broadcloth	✓					✓		
Brocade		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Challis	✓	✓					✓	
Chambray	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Chantilly (lace)	✓	✓					✓	
Charmeuse	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Cotton	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Chenille				✓			✓	
Chiffon	✓	✓					✓	
Corduroy				✓	✓		✓	
Crepe	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Denim				✓	✓		✓	
Dobby	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Eyelet	✓	✓					✓	
Faille		✓					✓	
Faux Fur				✓				
Flannel				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fleece				✓				
Gabardine				✓	✓		✓	✓
Georgette	✓	✓					✓	

Blouse/Shirt

Lightweight, drapey or breathable: lawn, batiste, chiffon, charmeuse, poplin, challis.

Dress/Skirt

Almost anything depending on silhouette — drape fabrics for flowy styles, structured fabrics for fitted styles.

Lining

Bemberg, charmeuse, satin, crepe.

Outerwear

Texture or body: bouclé, gabardine, denim, wool, leather, quilted, tech fabrics.

Pants

Need durability + moderate structure: twill, gabardine, denim, corduroy, linen blends.

Suiting

Stable fabrics with structure: wool, gabardine, suiting, jacquard, twill, shantung.

NON-STRETCH continued

FABRIC TYPE	PROJECT TYPE							
	Blouse	Dress	Lining	Outerwear	Pants	Shirt	Skirts	Suiting
Jacquard		✓		✓			✓	✓
Lawn	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Leather				✓	✓		✓	
Linen	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Mikado		✓					✓	
Minky		✓		✓				
Organza		✓					✓	
Oxford						✓		
Peachskin	✓	✓					✓	
Plissé	✓	✓					✓	
Poplin	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Quilted				✓				
Ripstop				✓	✓			
Sateen	✓	✓					✓	
Satin	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Seersucker	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Sequins		✓					✓	
Shantung / Dupioni		✓					✓	✓
Suede				✓	✓		✓	
Suiting					✓		✓	✓
Swiss Dot	✓	✓					✓	
Taffeta		✓					✓	
Tana Lawn	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Tech Fabrics				✓	✓			
Tweed				✓		✓		✓
Twill				✓	✓		✓	✓
Wool		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓

Blouse/Shirt

Lightweight, drapery or breathable: lawn, batiste, chiffon, charmeuse, poplin, challis.

Dress/Skirt

Almost anything depending on silhouette — drape fabrics for flowy styles, structured fabrics for fitted styles.

Lining

Bemberg, charmeuse, satin, crepe.

Outerwear

Texture or body: bouclé, gabardine, denim, wool, leather, quilted, tech fabrics.

Pants

Need durability + moderate structure: twill, gabardine, denim, corduroy, linen blends.

Suiting

Stable fabrics with structure: wool, gabardine, suiting, jacquard, twill, shantung.

STRETCH

FABRIC TYPE	PROJECT TYPE								
	Athleisure	Dress	Lining	Outerwear	Pants	Polo	Skirts	Sweaters	Top
Jersey Knit		✓					✓		✓
Bamboo Jersey		✓					✓		✓
Boucle				✓			✓	✓	
Brushed	✓	✓					✓		✓
Cableknit				✓				✓	
Cashmere								✓	✓
Compression	✓				✓				
Cotton Jersey		✓					✓		✓
Gauze		✓					✓		✓
Double Knit		✓			✓		✓		✓
Interlock		✓					✓		✓
ITY Knits		✓					✓		✓
Lace		✓					✓		✓
Liverpool		✓			✓		✓		✓
Mesh	✓		✓						✓
Neoprene	✓	✓		✓			✓		
Nylon (knit)	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
Pique (knit)						✓			✓
Ponte		✓			✓		✓		
Polyester Blends	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Rayon Jersey		✓					✓		✓
Rib Knit		✓					✓	✓	✓
Scuba Knit		✓		✓	✓		✓		
Sherpa				✓				✓	
Spandex Blend	✓		✓		✓				✓
Sweater Knit								✓	✓
Tech Fabrics	✓			✓	✓				✓
Tricot	✓		✓		✓				
Tulle							✓		

Athleisure

Look for recovery + durability + moisture handling: compression, nylon/spandex, tech knits, tricot

Dresses & skirts

Need drape or body depending on style: ITY, rayon jersey = flowy and ponte, scuba, neoprene = structured

Sweaters

Texture + loft: sweater knit, cableknit, bouclé knit, sherpa, cashmere

Pants

Require recovery and opacity: ponte, compression knits, double knit, tech fabrics

Tops

The widest category: jersey, rayon jersey, bamboo, interlock, rib knit