

# The ABC's of Apparel

Become a wearables sales pro by carrying around this handy glossary of important apparel terms.



*By Matt Histand*

Apparel is definitively the number-one product category that's sold in the advertising specialty industry. In fact, according to the *Counselor State of the Industry* survey, wearables have been selected by distributors as their most popular items sold for the past six years. ○ And yet, much in the apparel industry can be considered

a foreign language to many ad specialty distributors. Do you know that "ottoman" refers to more than an item you rest your feet on? Even further, could you explain the differences between pima, piqué and combed cotton? It's this kind of knowledge that will make you an apparel expert in the minds of your clients. Which patterns do they like? Maybe it's a herring-

bone they're looking for. Or a houndstooth. Or a paisley, a pincheck or a tattersall. Confused? We're here to help.

This glossary of 232 apparel terms will help you become the fashion pro your clients need these days. So keep this guide handy, as it will ensure that you're not at a loss for words when selling apparel.



**Abrede:** To roughen a mesh surface, yielding what is termed “tooth.”

**Air Jet:** Technique for bulking filament yarns by treating them with pressurized air from a miniature spout. Most commonly used in Taslan process (*see Synthetic Fibers sidebar, p.16*).

**Allen Solley Placket:** A one-piece placket that is hidden after being sewn.

**Anti-Pilling:** A treatment applied to the garment to prevent pilling, or the formation of the little balls of fabric due to wear.

**Appliqué:** Shaped pieces of fabric sewn onto one another for decoration that adds dimension and texture. Designs with appliqué are economical because they reduce the number of embroidery stitches needed to fill the design area.

**Argyle:** A diamond pattern woven into a garment with a checkerboard arrangement.



**Backed Cloth:** Single textile material with an extra warp or filling added for weight and warmth.

**Backing:** A woven or non-woven support material added to the back of the fabric being embroidered. It can be hooped with the item or placed between the machine throat plate and the hooped garment. It comes in various weights in three types: tear-away, cutaway and wash-away.

**Back Pleats:** Small folds in the back of a garment to allow for greater movement.

**Basket Weave:** Variation of the plain weave, made by grouping yarns and weaving them as one. Two-by-two and four-by-

four patterns are common. A semi-basket weave is made by grouping the yarns in only one direction.

**Batiste:** A medium-weight, plain-weave fabric, usually made of cotton or cotton blends. End uses include blouses and dresses.

**Bean Stitch:** Three stitches placed back and forth between two points. Often used for outlining, because it eliminates the need for repeatedly digitizing a single-ply running stitch outline.

**Bengaline:** Lustrous, durable fabric with a heavy crosswise rib made from textile fibers in combination. Used to make coats and suits.

**Birdseye:** Cotton or linen cloth woven to produce a small pattern that has a center dot resembling a bird's eye.

**Blanket Cloth:** Thick, heavily fullered woolen fabric with a softly brushed finish similar to an actual blanket, used for outerwear.

**Blazer Cloth:** General term for a variety of flannels and meltons used to make blazers.

**Bleeding:** The running of color from wet-dyed material onto a material next to it or the running of colors together.

**Blend:** A term applied to a yarn or a fabric that is made up of more than one fiber.

**Bobbin:** Spool or reel that holds the bobbin thread, which forms secure stitches on the underside of the fabric.

**Boiled Wool:** Thick, dense fabric that is heavily fullered to completely obscure its knitted construction. It has the suppleness of a knit, with the stability and shape retention of woven fabric.

**Boring:** Open work incorporated into embroidered designs; a sharp-pointed instrument punctures, or bores, the fabric, and stitches are made around the opening to enclose raw edges.

**Bouclé:** French for buckled, curled or ringed. It describes a knitted or woven fabric characterized by loops, knots or curls on one or both sides, made with a variety of looped, curled or slubbed yarns in one or both directions.

**Broadcloth:** A close, plain-weave fabric made of cotton, rayon, or a blend of the two along with polyester. The name is a reference to a plain or twill-weave wool or wool-blend fabric that is highly napped and then pressed flat.

**Buckram:** Coarse cotton woven fabric treated with a glue substance to stabilize fabric for stitching. It is commonly used for caps to hold the front panel in place.



**Calvary Twill:** Strong, rugged fabric with a pronounced double-twill line on the face and flatter, single twill line on the back. Used for sportswear, uniforms, coats or suits.

**Camel:** Made from the soft, caramel-colored under fleece of the Bactrian camel of Mongolia and western China.

**Canvas:** A heavy, rough, plain-weave material made from linen, hemp or cotton.

**Cashmere:** Fine, downy undercoat hair of the cashmere goat from Tibet; produces luxuriously soft garments.

**Challis:** High-quality, lightweight, especially soft fabric made with tightly spun worsted yarns and a plain weave, although sometimes a twill weave is used.

**Chambray:** A plain-woven fabric that can be made from cotton, silk or manufactured fibers, but is most commonly cotton. It incorporates a colored warp (often blue) and white filling yarns.

**Chenille:** A form of embroidery in which a loop stitch is formed on the top side of the fabric. Heavy yarns made of wool, cotton or acrylics are used.

**Cheviot:** Broad term for rough-surfaced, heavily fulled woolen or worsted fabrics used to make suits and overcoats.

**Chino:** Classic all-cotton “army twill” fabric made of combed two-ply yarns. At one time chino was solely for army uniforms,

but it’s now finding popularity in mainstream apparel.

**Collar:** The upright or turned-over neckband of a coat, jacket or shirt.

**Colorfastness:** A term used to describe a dyed fabric’s ability to resist fading due to washing, exposure to sunlight and other environmental conditions.

**Column Stitch:** A series of zigzag stitches placed closely together to form a column. Also known as a Steil Stitch or Satin Stitch.

**Combed Cotton:** Cotton that has been combed to remove short fibers and straight-

en long fibers for a smooth, finer hand.

**Combing:** The combing process is an additional step beyond carding. In this, the fibers are arranged in a highly parallel form, and additional short fibers are removed, producing high-quality yarns with excellent strength, fineness and uniformity.

**Cool Knit:** A piqué variation with a defined surface texture resembling a “waffle” pattern.

**Copy:** Lettering imprinted on an item. Can be an advertiser’s name, slogan or trademark.

**Cord Locks:** A stopper or toggle on a drawcord that keeps the cord from retracting into the garment.





**Corduroy:** A cut filling pile cloth with narrow to wide ribs. Once corduroy was a cotton fabric, now it can be found in polyester, and man-made blends.

**Cotton:** Soft vegetable fiber obtained from the seedpod of the cotton plant and one of the major fashion fibers in the textile industry. The longer the fiber, the better the quality. Lengths vary from less than one-half inch to more than two inches. Cotton is currently grown in 19 states and is a major crop in 14 states.

**Cover Stitching:** Using two needles to overlap threads underneath, covering the over-edged seams with smooth-seamed layers of threads.

**Covert:** Rugged water-repellent fabrics made with a compact twill weave and tightly twisted worsted yarns. Usually two shades of a color are twisted together, creating a two-ply yarn with a flecked or speckled appearance. Used for top coats, suits and sportswear.

**Custom:** Designing a specific garment to fit the needs of a client.



**Deboss:** Depressed imprint created by a machine pressing a dye into the surface of fabric or material. Popular in leather decoration.

**Denim:** A durable cotton twill traditionally a shade of blue. Once denim was strictly

used for jeans or work pants; now popular in all modes of apparel.

**Diagonal:** Another name for any fabric with a visible twill line.

**Digitizing:** A method of programming a design. Artwork is converted into a series of digital commands to be read by an embroidery machine's computer.

**Dobby Weave:** A decorative weave, characterized by small figures, usually geometric, that are woven into the fabric structure. Dobbies may be of any weight or compactness, with yarns ranging from very fine to coarse and fluffy.

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**Donegal Tweed:** Woolen tweed fabric that is characterized by thick, random multicolored slubs.

**Double-Faced Fabrics:** Heavy, reversible fabric made by weaving two separate cloths together with an extra binder in the warp or filling. Also called double cloth.

**Double Knit:** A circular knit fabric knitted via double stitch on a double-needle

frame to provide a double thickness. Most double knits are made of polyester.

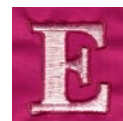
**Double-Needle:** Two rows of parallel stitching at the sleeve and/or bottom hem for a cleaner, more finished look.

**Double-Stitched:** The finish on a sleeve and/or bottom hem that uses two needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching. It gives the garment a cleaner, more finished look and adds durability.

**Down:** The soft, fluffy under feathers of ducks and geese, primarily used as insulation in outerwear.

**Drop Tail (or Extended Tail):** A longer back than front for the purpose of keeping the shirt tucked in during activity.

**Duck:** A heavy, closely woven material, often cotton, used for heavyweight shirts or outerwear.



**Embossing:** A surface effect achieved on fabric by means of passing cloth through a series of engraved rollers that impart figures or designs to its surface. Rollers work through heat and pressure.

**Emblem:** Logo or design with a finished edge, commonly an insignia of identification.

**Embroidery:** Decoration on fabric using thread to produce designs either by hand or machinery.

**End-on-End:** A two-ply weave of different color yarns that run parallel to each other so that both colors are visible, creating a soft contrast in the garment.

**Enzyme Washed:** Chemical wash that gives fabric a very soft finish, smoother appearance or reduces shrinkage.



**Face:** The right side or the better-looking side of the fabric.

**Facing:** A piece of fabric that is sewn to the collar, front opening, cuffs or arms of a garment to create a finished look.

**Felt:** Non-woven fabric made by layering thin sheets of carded wool fibers, then applying heat, moisture and pressure to

## The Greening Of Apparel

Every year there seem to be more and more high-tech fabrics available in the apparel market. While these advances have created some incredible garments for both the retail and promotional markets, there is a growing demand for natural and renewable fabrics. While cotton remains king, a number of alternative fabrics have become increasingly popular with consumers. What's surprising is that many of these fabrics not only have a feel that is comparable to cotton but they are naturally imbued with characteristics found in many high-tech fabrics. Here are a few of the most popular and potentially rewarding new kinds.

- **Bamboo:** Bamboo pulp can be converted into fibers to create fabric that is extra-soft and very durable. Its natural properties make it antimicrobial, UV-resistant and breathable. Bamboo requires no pesticides to grow and is one of the fastest growing plants in the world. The bamboo used for fabric is commonly known as Moso and can reach a mature height of 75 feet in just 45 to 60 days.

- **Corn:** Fabric is created when dextrose pulled from corn is fermented to produce lactic acid, which is converted to fabric once the water is removed. Corn-based fabric has excellent moisture-wicking properties, UV-resistance and low odor retention. It's also stain-resistant, experiences minimal shrinkage and pilling, and is biodegradable and compostable.

- **Hemp:** Three times stronger than cotton and easy to grow, hemp does not require fertilizer or pesticides. It's also antimicrobial, UV-resistant and breathable. It's not as soft as cotton but in a blend it can add durability to a garment.

- **Organic Cotton:** The only difference between organic cotton and standard cotton is that organic cotton is grown without the use of pesticides or chemical additives. It is also grown in soil that has been chemical-free for at least three years. Several levels of organic cotton exist, and each presents low impact to the environment.

- **Soy:** Made from the byproducts of soybean crops. This fabric has a soft, smooth hand, and contains natural antibacterial agents. It has the same moisture-absorption properties as cotton, but with better moisture transmission for drier, more comfortable garments.

## Branded Terms

**What's in a name? Everything, according to many apparel manufacturers. That's why it seems that each has its own unique name or term to describe its garments' particular performance attributes. We've assembled a short list from around the industry to help you more quickly identify some of the most prominent names.**

**ClimaCool:** Adidas technology that keeps air flowing around garments to regulate body temperature.

**ClimaLite:** Adidas water-wicking technology.

**ClimaShell:** Adidas technology that protects fabric from the environment but remains light, breathable, and water- and wind-resistant.

**ClimaProof:** Adidas technology that keeps the wearer warm and dry no matter what the weather.

**CoolFit:** Bella's (asi/39590) dry-wicking performance technology found in its Alo line.

**CoolMax:** The DuPont technology that uses specially engineered fibers to push perspiration to the surface of a garment. Used in many brand-name moisture management systems.

**Dri-Fit:** Nike water-wicking system to keep the wearer dry.

**Dri-Power:** Russell Artwear (asi/84257) technology for drawing moisture away from the body.

**DryTech:** Boardroom Custom Clothing (asi/40705) quick-dry system based on capillary migration.

**EnduraFit:** Technology and company (asi/52479) that produces a full-line of moisture-wicking garments.

**PlayDry:** Reebok moisture-wicking technology.

**PolarTec:** Leading manufacturer of synthetic and technology fabrics. Its products run the gamut from moisture-wicking and insulation to stretch and weather protection.

**StretchFlex:** Bella's stretch-fabric technology found in its Alo line.

**TemptraDry:** Moisture-wicking system from WICKid (asi/97125) that uses microfiber polyester to keep the wearer cool and dry.

shrink and compress the fibers into a thick matted cloth that will not ravel or fray.

**Fill Stitch:** A series of running stitches commonly combined to cover large areas.

**Findings:** Pockets, linings, zippers and other supplementary items used in the manufacture of garments.

**Finishing:** Processes performed after embroidery is complete. Includes trimming loose threads, cutting or tearing away excess backing, removing topping, cleaning any stains, pressing or steaming to remove wrinkles or hoop marks, and packaging for sale or shipment.

**Flannel:** Soft woolen or worsted fabric with a slightly fuzzy nap on one or both sides. Usually made with a twill weave and softly twisted filling yarns, which provide the nap when fabric is brushed.

**Fleece:** Fabrics with thick, deep nap that provides warmth without weight. May be twill or plain weave.



**Gabardine:** A firm durable cloth used in both men's and women's apparel. The fabric has a distinct, closely set diagonal rib on the face and a plain back.

**Gray Goods:** Cloth that has been woven but has received no dry or wet finishing instructions, including color.

**Grommets:** Found underarm or in the back neck, grommets are small holes that allow for air circulation and ventilation.

**Gun Club Check:** Double-check design that uses three colors to form a larger check over a smaller check.



**Hand:** The way the fabric feels when it is touched. Terms like

softness, crispness, dryness and silkiness are all used to describe the hand of the fabric.

**Harris Tweed:** A trademark for an imported tweed made of virgin wool from the Highlands of Scotland, spun, dyed and hand-woven by islanders in Harris and other islands of the Hebrides.

**Henley:** Knit shirt with buttoned placket at neckline, no collar.

**Herringbone:** A variation on the twill weave construction in which the twill is reversed, or broken, at regular intervals, producing a zigzag effect.

**Hoop:** A round device made from wood, plastic or steel with which fabric is held in place for machine embroidering.

**Houndstooth:** A textile design of small broken checks woven into the fabric. The



characteristics of the twill line are not readily apparent.

**Hydrophilic Fibers:** Fibers which absorb water readily, such as cotton, linen or rayon.

**Hydrophobic Fibers:** Fibers that are normally nonabsorptive and repel water, such as nylon and polyester.

**Interfacing:** Fabrics used to support, reinforce and give shape to fashion fabrics in sewn products. Often placed between the lining and the outer fabric, it can be made from yarns or directly from fibers, and may be either woven, nonwoven or knitted. Some interfacings are designed to be fused (with heat from an iron), while others are meant to be stitched to the fabric.



**Interlining:** An insulation, padding or stiffening fabric, either sewn to the wrong side of the lining or the inner side of the outer shell fabric. The interlining is used primarily to provide warmth in coats, jackets and outerwear.

**Interlock:** The stitch variation of the rib stitch, which resembles two separate 1 x 1 ribbed fabrics that are interknitted. Plain (double knit) interlock stitch fabrics are thicker, heavier and more stable than single-knit constructions.

**Jacquard Knit:** A double-knit fabric in which a Jacquard type of mechanism is used. This device individually controls needles or small groups of needles, and allows very complex and highly patterned knits to be created, typically using two or more colors.



**Jersey Fabric:** The consistent interlooping of yarns in the jersey stitch to produce

a fabric with a smooth, flat face and a more textured, but uniform, back. Jersey fabrics may be produced on either circular or flat weft knitting machines.

**Jute:** Also known as burlap, this is a coarse fiber from the bark of an Asian tree.



**Lapel:** Either of the two folded-back front edges of a jacket or shirt that are continuous with the collar.

**Linen:** A flax product, linen absorbs moisture quickly and doesn't soil easily.

**Locker Loop:** A looped piece of fabric in the neck of a garment for the convenience of hanging the garment on a hook. Can also be located at the center of the back yoke on the inside or outside of a garment.

**Locker Patch (a.k.a. Half Moon Patch):** An oval panel sewn into the inside back of a sportshirt, under the collar seam.

**Loden:** Thick, soft fabric woven of coarser wools that are especially water-repellent.



**Madras:** One of the oldest materials in the cotton family. Madras is made on a plain-weave background, which is usually white; stripes, cords or minute checks may be used to form the pattern.

**Melton:** A smooth, heavy wool cloth used primarily in outerwear. Quality varies depending on the type of stock used.

**Mercerizing:** A finishing process used extensively on cotton yarn and cloth consisting of treating the material with a cold, strong sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) solution. The treatment increases the strength and affinity for dyes and gives the finished fabric a soft, silk-like feel.

**Merino:** The highest, finest grade of wool.

**Mesh:** Any fabric, knitted or woven, with an open texture, fine or coarse, for added comfort and ventilation.

**Mohair:** Soft fleece of the angora goat that absorbs dyeing very well.

**Moiré:** An undesirable pattern sometimes resulting when two sets of lines or dot patterns in a process-color design overlap.

**Monogram:** Embroidered design composed of one or more letters, usually the initials in a name.

**Mylar:** A polyester film used to cover a metallic yarn. Often used in apparel decoration.



**Nap:** A fuzzy, fur-like feel created when fiber ends extend from the basic fabric structure to the fabric surface. The fabric can be napped on either one or both sides.

**Nail Head:** General term for a variety of small woven patterns, including bird's eye, dots and small houndstooth. It is usually associated with clear-finished worsted suiting, such as sharkskin.

**Nylon:** A synthetic polymer, a plastic, durable fabric used in apparel and other everyday items.



**Ombré:** Design that has gradations in color; usually it is shades of one family of color or can change colors, such as from green to blue; means "shaded" in French.

**Open-End Yarn:** A cost-saving process that eliminates some manufacturing steps needed for ring-spun yarn.

**Ottoman:** A tightly woven plain weave ribbed fabric with a hard, slightly lustered surface. The ribbed effect is created by weaving a finer silk or manufactured warp yarn with a heavier filler yarn, usually made of cotton or wool.

**Overall:** A print whose image or images cover the entire substrate, front and back. Also referred to as “all over.”

**Oxford:** A fine, soft, lightweight woven cotton, sometimes blended with manufactured fibers, in a 2 x 1 basket weave variation of the plain-weave construction. The fabric is used primarily for shirts.



**Pad Printing:** Pad printing utilizes a flexible silicone rubber transfer pad that picks up a film of ink from a photo-etched printing plate and transfers it to an item. Pad printing is usually used for three-dimensional items.

**Paisley:** Abstract scroll pattern that originated in Paisley, Scotland, and was used to make imitation cashmere shawls. The popular pattern is often executed in rich, deep colors.

**Pattern:** An outline of a garment on paper. It usually embodies all the pieces necessary to cut a complete garment from material.

**Percalae:** A smooth, textured, closely woven cotton or polyester fabric.

**Piece-Dyed:** Dyeing that occurs after a fabric is made, but before it is assembled into a garment.

**Pigment:** A substance that is added to give color to fabric.

**Pill:** A tangled ball of fibers that appears on the surface of a fabric as a result of wear, continued friction or rubbing on the surface of the fabric.

**Pima Cotton:** A high-end yarn made by plying yarns spun from long combed staple. One of the best grades of cotton in the world. Pima cotton has extra-long fiber lengths making it soft, yet strong.

**Pincheck:** Very small check pattern that is popular for suits, sportswear and outerwear.

**Pinpoint Oxford:** This tightly woven fabric is similar to classic Oxford cloth but is much finer and dressier.

**Pinstripes:** Very thin, light or dark, lengthwise stripes.

**Piqué:** A closely woven ribbed fabric produced from natural fibers, usually cotton. Piqué is very popular in polo-style shirts.

**Placket:** The opening of a shirt or jacket where the garment fastens or at a pocket. A reverse placket is the reversed opening for women's garments.

**Plain Weave:** The simplest weave, also called “one-up and one-down weave,” in which each filling yarn passes over and under each warp yarn, forming a checkerboard pattern.

**Ply:** Two or more yarns that have been twisted together.

**Polyester:** A strong, durable synthetic fabric with low moisture absorbency. Polyester is popular for its comfort and resistance to wrinkles.

**Poly-filled:** A warm polyester lining used in outerwear.

## Body Mapping: The Next Step in Performance

Performance technology is a popular catchphrase in the world of promotional apparel, but it really does signal a major evolution in apparel. While these technologies are amazing, manufacturers are constantly refining the technology. The latest breakthrough is called body mapping and combines various technologies.

The way body mapping works is through the strategic placement of performance fabrics at locations on the garment that best target areas of the body that need moisture management. The areas of biggest concern are usually under the arms and down the back. What's important to realize is that this construction process means that instead of treating an entire garment with a special finish or performance fabric, only the areas most needing it are targeted.

Body mapping's application in the sports market is obvious, especially in the golf wear industry, which is on the cutting edge of performance fabric. But it may also be surprisingly popular in everyday apparel, to regulate a person's temperature, such as when going from an air-conditioned office to the outside or for a casual walk on a hot day.

As technologies mature, body mapping procedures will expand further as well. There is even talk of future applications resulting in odor-reduction properties. So don't delay. Introduce your clients to body mapping apparel today before its popularity grows even further.



**Polymer:** The chemical solution from which man-made fibers are spun.

**Polynosic:** A stable rayon fiber that has a soft, silk-like hand.

**Poplin:** A broad term to describe several fabrics made from various types of yarn. Usually a plain, strong fabric with fine ribbing creating a slight ridge effect; often made of cotton.

**Preshrunk:** Fabrics or garments that have received a preshrinking treatment. Often done on cottons – to remove the tendency for cloth to shrink – before cutting the fabric for use in a garment to prevent further shrinkage.



**Raglan:** This popular style of apparel is a loose-fitting garment with a sleeve extending to the collar of a garment instead of ending at the shoulder. A raglan sleeve is attached with slanting seams running from under the arm to the neck.

**Registration:** This refers to the ability to line up details and parts of designs with each other.

**Rib Knit:** A basic stitch used in weft knitting in which the knitting machines require two sets of needles operating at right angles to each other. Rib knits have a very high degree of elasticity in the crosswise direction. This knitted fabric is used for complete garments and for sleeve bands,

neckbands, sweater waistbands and special types of trims for use with other knit or woven fabrics. Lightweight sweaters in rib knits provide a close, body-hugging fit.

**Ring Spun:** A process of spinning the yarn to make it a softer and more durable fabric.

**Rip-Stop Nylon:** A lightweight, wind-resistant and water-resistant plain-weave fabric. Large rib yarns stop tears without adding excess weight to active sportswear apparel.

**Running Stitch:** A series of single stitches forming a line.



**Satin:** The name originated in China. Satin cloths were originally of silk. Similar fabrics are

## Synthetic Fibers

Here's a grouping of terms for all of the synthetic fibers used in the manufacturing of apparel today.

**Acetate:** One of the earliest manufactured fibers in which the fiber-forming substance is cellulose acetate.

**Acrylic:** A manufactured fiber that is silk-like in appearance and in feel and springs back when crushed. The fiber-forming substance is any long chain of synthetic polymer composed of at least 85% by weight of acrylonitrile units.

**Lycra:** INVISTA's trademark for a synthetic fabric material with elastic properties of the sort known generically as "spandex."

**Microfiber:** Very thin fibers, including polyester, nylon and acrylic, that are less than one denier per filament. Typically creates very strong fabrics with a softer hand but durable, water-repellent, windproof and with the ability to retain color.

**Micro Fleece:** A high-density anti-pilling fleece made from microfiber brushed less than a regular fleece fabric. It is very warm, but does not have the accompanying weight.

**Nylon:** A synthetic polymer, a plastic, durable fabric used in apparel and other everyday items. Invented by DuPont Corporation in 1939, today it's used in many apparel items and is popular for its resistance to moisture, wrinkles and unending durability.

**Polyester:** A strong, durable synthetic fabric with low moisture absorbency. Polyester is popular for its comfort and doesn't wrinkle

or fade. It is often blended with cotton to produce a longer lasting garment that wrinkles less.

**Rayon:** A manufactured textile fiber composed of regenerated cellulose.

**Spandex:** Name for many of the elastic textile fibers most often made from polyurethane. Its ability to stretch and snap back to its original form makes spandex ideal for a blend used in garments designed to hold their shape. It was first developed in 1959.

**Supplex:** DuPont-engineered nylon that is soft and supple like cotton but durable and quick-drying. It's stain-, fade- and shrink-resistant as well as windproof and breathable.

**Taslan:** A textured yarn that is made on a bulking process developed by DuPont. Its hand, loftiness, covering power and yarn texture are such that these properties are permanent and do not require special handling or care. It's a registered trademark.

**Teflon Coated:** DuPont-trademarked water- and stain-repellent coating that allows fabric to remain breathable.

**Ultra Suede:** Registered trademark of Spring Mills Inc. for a fabric marketed under its Skinner brand. Fabric is not woven or knitted, and has tiny polyester fibers embedded in its soft lush surface.

now made from acetate, rayon and some of the other man-made fibers. The fabric has a very smooth, lustrous face effect while the back of the material is dull.

**Satin Stitch:** A zigzag sewing action where two stitches form a column. It is often used for lettering, outlining and detail.

**Saxony:** General term used for especially high-quality fabrics of merino wool, often used for coats and suits.

**Seersucker:** Lightweight cotton-type, color-striped fabric with permanent, lengthwise, alternating, puckered stripes and felt strip sections.

**Sharkskin:** High-quality worsted suiting fabric with a smooth, sleek face and slightly iridescent sheen, resembling the skin of a shark. It may be plain or woven with fancy patterns.

**Sheepskin:** General term for a tanned hide with the wool still intact.

**Sheeting:** A plain-weave cotton fabric usually made with carded yarns.

**Shearling:** Tanned and dressed skin from a newly sheared sheep or lamb with the wool still attached.

**Sherpa:** A fleece derivative with a unique nap.

**Short Stitch:** A digitizing technique that places shorter stitches in curves and corners to avoid an unnecessary bulky buildup of stitches.

**Shrinkage:** The reduction in width and length, or both, that takes place in a fabric when it is washed or dry-cleaned. Residual shrinkage is the term used to indicate the percentage of shrinkage that occurs in the fabric at the time of its first washing.

**Side Vents:** Fashion details allowing for comfort and ease of movement.

**Silk:** The only natural fiber that comes in a filament form. Spun from silkworms, this fine fabric is comfortable and soft but must be treated gently.

**Silk Screening:** Also known as screen printing photographic process transfers artwork onto a porous nylon screen, which allows a custom color ink to flow onto the garment.

**Single Knit:** A fabric knitted on a single-needle machine. This fabric has less body, substance and stability when compared with double knit.

**Single Yarn:** One that has not been plied; the result of drawing, twisting and winding a mass of fibers into a coherent yarn.

**Shetland:** Very fine, lustrous wool from the downy soft undercoat of Shetland sheep. The term has been used rather loosely by the apparel industry to describe similar fabrics and clothing, especially sweaters made from coarser types of wool.

**Sleeve:** Part of the garment that covers part or the entire arm.

**Slubs:** Soft lumps or unevenness in yarn.

**Soft Goods:** Industry term sometimes applied to textile fabrics and products.

**Solution-Dyed:** A type of fiber dyeing in which colored pigments are injected into the spinning solution prior to the extrusion of the fiber through the spinneret. Fibers and yarns colored in this manner are colorfast to most destructive agents.

**Stability:** That property of a bonded fabric that prevents sagging, slipping or stretch-

ing. This is conducive to ease of handling in manufacturing and helps fabric keep its shape in wear, dry cleaning and washing.

**Stain-Release:** Allows fabric to release soiling and stains upon washing.

**Stain-Repellent:** Fabric dipped in a chemical bath that adds a concentration of compound, such as Teflon, that repels stains.


**Stretch Yarns:** Continuous-filament yarns that have been textured or modified to give them elasticity. Use of these yarns gives fabrics a degree of elasticity and comfort.

**Stock Designs:** Digitized common embroidery designs that are commercially available for general use by embroiderers.

**Stonewashed:** Fabric treatment to achieve a worn and faded effect, common in denim fabric.

**Storm Flap:** A strip of fabric that covers the zipper or snap closure of a jacket to protect against wind and moisture. Storm flaps can also be sewn on the inside of the zipper.

**Swatch:** A small sample of material used for inspection, comparison, construction, color, finish and sales purposes.

 **Tackle Twill:** Letters or numbers cut from polyester or rayon twill fabric that is commonly used for athletic teams and organizations.

**Tartan:** Wool, worsted or cotton cloth made in plain weave or in a twill weave. Tartan is popular in caps, dresses, neckwear, shirts, sport coats and trousers.

**Taped Seams:** A strip of fabric attached to the seam of a garment to prevent distortion.

**Tension:** The tautness of thread when forming stitches.

**Tattersall Check:** Simple check pattern with a loud appearance made with two colors against a white or contrasting background. Gaudy combinations of bold colors are common. Checks are usually about half-inch square.

**Terry Cloth:** This cloth has uncut loops on both sides of the fabric. Woven on a dobby loom with a terry arrangement, various sizes of yarns are used in the construction. Terry is very popular in robes and towels.

**Textile:** Traditionally a textile is defined as a woven fabric made by interlacing yarns.

**Tencel:** A fabric made from the fiber found in wood pulp which is processed into a silk-like, delicate fabric.

**Thread Count:** The actual number of warp ends and filling picks per inch in a woven cloth. In knitted fabric, thread count implies the number of wales or ribs.

**Torqued:** A condition in which one side is higher than the other. This can cause the fabrics to twist, which sometimes damages the screen printed design or causes the shirt to lose its shape.

**Tricot:** A type of warp-knitted fabric that has a thin texture made from very fine yarn.

**Trimming:** The action of cutting loose thread, removing backing, etc., from the final embroidered product.

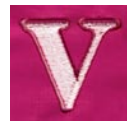
**Tubular Knit:** A golf shirt with no side seams – a cost advantage because there is less cutting and sewing. Tubular products are at greater risk for body torquing (twisting).

**Tweed:** Rough, durable woolen cloth with irregular slubs or knots on the surface, made with a twill or herringbone weave.

**Twill:** A type of fabric woven with a pattern of diagonal parallel ribs. It is made by passing the weft threads over one warp thread and then under two or more warp threads. Examples of twill fabric are Gabardine and Tweed.



**Underlay Stitching:** The stitching action that will attach the backing to the fabric being embroidered. It also supports the top embroidery for a more lofty dimensional look.



**Velour:** A term loosely applied to cut pile cloths in general; also to fabrics with a fine raised finish. Velour has a soft, comfortable hand.

**Virgin Wool:** New wool that has never been used before, or reclaimed from any spun, woven, knitted, felted, manufactured or used products.



**Waterproof:** A garment that is seam-sealed and able to withstand a specific amount of water pressure, keeping the wearer completely dry by blocking water from coming in.

**Water-Repellent:** Ability of a fabric to resist penetration by water under certain conditions. Various types of tests are used, and these are conducted on samples before and after subjection to standard washing and dry cleaning tests.

**Water-Resistant:** Fabric treated chemically to resist water. Not to be confused with water-repellent.

**Welt:** A strip of material seamed to a pocket opening as a finishing as well as a strengthening device, or a covered cord or ornamental strip sewn on a border or along a seam.

**Whipcord:** Compact worsted twill fabric with prominent diagonal cords that run from the lower left to the upper right.

**Wickability:** The ability of a fiber or a fabric to disperse moisture and allow it to pass through to the surface of the fabric, so that evaporation can take place.

**Windowpane:** Simple, boxy check or plaid pattern using a minimum of colors and thin lines to form large squares or rectangles with clear centers.

**Wool:** Fibers that grow on sheep fleece. Wool products may also include fibers from lamb, angora or cashmere goat.

**Wool Satin:** Luxurious worsted fabric with a smooth lustrous face, made with tightly twisted yarns and satin weave.

**Worsted:** Smooth, uniform, well-twisted yarns, usually wool. Little finishing is necessary in these clear surface materials. Plain or fancy weaves are used, and the cloth is usually yarn dyed, but piece-dyed fabrics are also popular.

**Wrinkle-Resistant:** The application of resin to fabric which is then heated to extremely high temperatures to cure garments to make them hold their shape without wrinkling.



**Yarn Dyed:** Dyeing that occurs at the yarn stage, before it is made into fabric.

**Yoke Back:** A piece of fabric that connects the back of a garment to the shoulders. This allows the garment to lie flat.