



at the

FIBERS

*in fabrics of apparel!*

Learn what to expect from them ...



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**W**hen buying for satisfaction fiber identification is your first need. Once you learn the name or names of the fibers in your piece of fabric, it acquires individuality — or — it becomes separated from other fabrics, simply because it is different than others. Your problem now is to know what to expect of the fabric. This is the main concern of all buyers today ——— the problem of performance.

In the listings below you will see what and how each of the different families of fibers (generic groups) is expected to perform. These characteristics are supplied either by nature or built in by modern chemistry. The characteristics vary. They are listed here to help you select satisfactory garments according to your own personal needs — determined by your physical self, your social self, and your artistic self. Some writers refer to this as Your Looking-Glass Self.

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#### ACETATE

Luxurious appearance  
Drapes well  
Dyes beautifully  
Dries quickly  
One of least expensive today  
Soluble in nail polish remover  
\*Must use very low heat

#### COTTON

Wears well  
Feels good  
Does not irritate the skin  
Is absorbent  
Cleans easily  
Transmits moisture away from skin  
Yarns do not slip  
Fairly static free  
Resists stretching  
Gives good service  
Heat resistant  
Generally color fast  
Adaptable

#### ACRYLIC FIBERS

Tends to hold shape well as to stretching, as to shrinking, as to sagging  
Does not itch or scratch  
Strong but soft  
Excellent wrinkle resistance  
Water stains wipe off easily  
Can be heat-set and so holds pleats well  
Moth resistant  
Mildew resistant

#### LINEN

Cool, crisp  
Tends to wrinkle; check tag and to find the wrinkle resistant kind  
Available in many weights  
Takes dye very well  
Washes easily  
Dry-cleans well  
Wears very well  
Holds shape well

## NYLON

Should give excellent performance  
Strong!! Check labels, check hang tags  
Good abrasion resistance  
Good elasticity  
Dries quickly  
Holds pleats  
Does not shrink  
Moth resistant  
Heat setting—all qualities here also  
Again it is the brand name one must rely on from reputable stores  
The well-known companies have too much at stake to risk making inferior goods

## RAYON

Economical  
Dyes beautifully  
Absorbs moisture well  
Look for manufacturers hang tag if there are no washing instructions  
Have garment dry cleaned

## WOOL

Pleasant feel and texture  
Degree of natural wrinkle resistance  
Takes dye well and so available in many colors  
Durable  
Warm  
Comfortable in various seasons  
Degree of water repellency  
Flame resistant  
Is easily shaped and tailored

## SILKS

How can one identify hangtag — may be a butterfly tag!

### Blends:

Used more and more in blends in combinations with natural or man-made fibers — give many new and desirable effects. \*The name silk can precede other fiber names only when there is a higher per cent of silk than other fibers.

### Wash or Dry-Clean

Depends on garment  
Read suggestions on tag

Water Spot— Yes, this is a natural characteristic of silk. New finishes are easing this situation. Water spots come out when garment is washed or dry-cleaned. Perspiration—does harm silk in new garment, it may be well to use shields.

### Slipping at Seams — Yes

Silk is delicate  
It is not made to stand strain  
It does have a natural tendency to give and this will help in the sheath type dress  
Therefore, guard against silk dresses that fit too tightly.  
Linings in silk dresses help to prevent slippage.  
Silk is an excellent traveler.

Durable — very, because fiber is so very strong

## WORSTED

Firm, because of longer, tighter  
twisted fibers  
Durable  
Retains press well  
Pattern clearly visible

Dacron. Again the inherent characteristics are due to the fibers and the percentages of each used in the blend.

GENERAL — Read the fac-tag carefully, review material in your lesson, make choices accordingly.

## BLENDS

What is a blend?

Blending as applied to textiles may be defined as the combining of staple fibers of different properties so that in fabric form a uniform mixture of the different staples is obtained. The predominating characteristics in any blended fabric will be those of the fiber present in the largest amount.

An example might be a winter dress of 35 per cent orlon, 65 per cent wool. The result: A dress that has many qualities of each of the two fibers, the wool characteristics being predominant.

- 1). Linen — Silk
- 2). Batiste-Dacron-Cotton-Nylon  
Such a fabric has the appearance of cotton. It is sheer and cool appearing, it has wash-and-wear characteristics because of the Dacron-Nylon present
- 3). Plain or printed cotton-like material such as found in blouses or dresses, 65% Cotton, 35%

## POLYESTER

### Orlon

- 1). Generally poor abrasion. Resistance causes surface to pill.
- 2). Soft—luxurious hand.

### Orlon & Dacron & Others

Light wt.  
Does pick up lint  
Due to static electricity  
dries quickly  
Holds pleats  
Does not shrink  
Not liked by moths  
Sturdy  
Stretch resistant  
Wrinkle resistant

### Dacron

Crisp even in hot weather  
Does not pill