

	RESOURCE LIBRARY HOTEL OPERATIONS - HOUSEKEEPING Common Textile Terms and Definitions	<i>CODE:</i> 03.05.096
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OBJECTIVE

- To provide explanation and information on common textile terms.

STATEMENT OF POLICY & PROCEDURE

1. **ABRASION RESISTANCE** - The ability of the fabric to withstand loss of appearance, utility, pile or surface through the destructive action of surface wear and rubbing
2. **AIR PERMEABILITY** - The degree of porosity in a fabric or the ease with which air passes through it.
3. **BLEND** – A mixture of different fibers in the same yarn, or yarns of different fibers in the same fabric.
4. **BONDING** – A process of pressing fibers into thin sheets or webs that are held together by adhesive chemicals. Non-woven is bonded.
5. **CALENDERING** – A finishing process used by textile mills. It produces a flat, glossy, smooth surface by passing the fabric under pressure between a series of heated cylinders. The number of cylinders varies. The greater the heat and pressure, the higher the luster.
6. **COLORFAST** – A term applies to dyed or printed yarns on fabrics, which do not quickly change color under the normal use from which they were intended.
7. **COMBED YARN** – A cotton or worst yarn that has been combed. Combed cotton yarns compared to carded yarns are more even, compact, and have few projecting fibers. Fabrics with finer threads often are made with combed yarns.
8. **CONSTRUCTION** – The term used to describe the details of structure and quality of a fabric yarn. For example, with cotton goods where the construction is given, it includes the width of the goods and number of threads per inch in warp and filling and the number of yarns per pound of the fabric.
9. **CORD** – Two more ply yarns are twisted together to form a cord.
10. **COUNTS** – The count of yarn is the numerical designation given to indicate its size and is the relation of length to weight. Count of cloth is indicated by enumerating first the number of warp ends, then the number of filling. For example, 68 x 72 means 68 warp ends per inch and 72 filling yarns per inch.
11. **DACRON** – Trademark for DuPont Polyester fiber.



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12. **DYEING** – Uniformity covering fiber, yarn of fabric, or parts thereof with solid color, usually by immersing in a bath of dye. Also includes treating of fabric to accept the fastness of the color.
13. **EMBOSSING** – A calendaring process which produces a raised sign or pattern in relief. The design is pressed into fabric by passing it through hot engraved rollers.
14. **FACE** – The surface of the fabric, which presents a better appearance than the other side (back because of weave, luster, finish, etc.) It is the side meant to be seen.
15. **FELT**- A non-woven sheet of matted material made from wool, hair, fur or man-made fibers; felting takes place by combination of heat, moisture and pressure.
16. **FINISHING** – All process through which fabric passes after being taken from the loom. This covers bleaching, dyeing, sizing and processes which give desired surface effects, such as napping, calendaring, embossing, etc. and special finishes such as crease resistance, water repellency, etc.
17. **HARD TWIST** – A twist, which has a larger number of turns per inch than average. In the opinion of some, any number of turns per inch greater than the square root of the yarn count multiplied by four is hard twist yarn.
18. **JERSEY** – A broadly applied name for a plain knitted fabric. It may be made circular, flat or warp knit of any fiber.
19. **LOOM** – A weaving machine which produces fabric by interlacing a series of vertical, parallel threads (warp) with a series of horizontal, parallel threads (filling)
20. **MECERIZATION** – A treatment of cotton yarn or fabric to increase its luster. Its affinity for dyes is also enhanced. In the process the material is immersed under tension in sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) solution in the form of warp, skein or in the piece. This is later neutralized in acid. The process causes a permanent swelling of the fiber thus increasing its luster.
21. **MOISTURE CONTENT** – A measure in percentage of the moisture present in textile fiber, yarn or fabric after exposure, under prescribed conditions, to a standard atmosphere having a relative humidity of 65 percent at 21 Celsius as compared to its oven-dry weight.
22. **NON WOVEN FABRICS** - Assemblies of textile fibers held together either by mechanical interlocking in a random web or mat, by fusing (in the case of thermoplastic fiber), or by bonding with a cementing medium such as starch, glue, casein, rubber latex or one of the cellulose derivatives or synthetic resins. The fibers may be preferentially oriented in one direction or may be deposited in a random manner. This web or sheet of fibers is then bonded together with an adhesive of one or several types or by the inclusion of certain thermoplastic synthetic fibers.



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23. **OXYCELLULOSE** – Cellulose changes chemically by the action of oxidizing agents. This may occur during bleaching resulting in a weakening or tendering of the cotton.
24. **PERCALE BED SHEETING** – Bed sheeting made in two types, of carded yarns and combed yarns. Combed cotton percale sheeting, the finer of the two types, is smooth, luxurious, plain weave fabrics with approximately 200 threads per square inch. Carded cotton percale sheeting average 180 threads per square inch. Finer yarns are used in combed than in carded percales. The combed percales are often referred to as ‘true” percales, the carded as “utility” percales.
25. **PICE GOODS** – A general term for fabrics woven in length to be sold by the yard in stores.
26. **PILLING** – A process of forming small tangles of fibers. These tangles are defect produced when the surface of material is rubbed either against itself or foreign substance; the short fiber pull out of the fabric yarns and entangle themselves with ends of one or more fibers still held in the yarn. The pill is held on the surface and can be removed only by breaking the fibers that holds it. Pilling is most prevalent in loosely twisted fibers. While historically this occurred principally in woolen and worsted materials, especially knit goods, some constructions of synthetic fibers have been particularly troublesome in this respect.
27. **PLAIN WEAVE** – Simplest and most important of the three basic weaves, used in approximately 80% of all woven fabrics. Twill weaves and satin are the other two.
28. **PLY** – The number of single yarns twisted together to form ply yarn. Also the numbers of ply yarns twisted together to form cord.
29. **ROVING** – A loose assemblage of fibers drawn or rubbed into a single strand, with very little twist. It is an intermediate state between silver and yarn.
30. **SATIN** – A smooth, generally lustrous fabric with thick, close texture made of silk, man-made fibers and others, in a satin weave, either warp-face or filling-face effect. In the warp effect fabrics, the warp thread dominates the face, and the reverse situation prevails situation prevails with filling-face. Satin does not refer to fiber content.
31. **SATIN WEAVE** – Third basic weave in which the face of the fabric is formed almost completely of warp of filling floats produced in the repeat of the weave. This is achieved by squaring the point of the intersections evenly and widely as possible. The weave produces a fabric with a characteristically smooth surface employing greater number of yarns in the set of threads that forms the face.
32. **SEAM SLIPPAGE** – A defect occurring when sewn fabrics pull apart at the seams. This maybe due to improper construction or finish, when smooth yarns are not properly bound together and slip. Fabrics made with smooth yarns like silk, filament rayon or nylon are more



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troubled by seam slippage that those made with rougher yarns, or seam slippage may be caused by stitch which didn't have proper "bite" and the seam opens. In knit fabrics when this occurs it causes a run.

33. SELVAGE – A narrow woven edge portion of fabric parallel to the warp made with special stronger yarns in a closer construction than the body to prevent raveling. The selvage is called fast when the fill threads are cut off at the edge of the fabric after every pick.
34. SOLUTION DYED – A term used for solution dyed man – made fibers. The coloring matter is introduced into the spinning solution before its extrusion through spinnerets and forming into yarn.
35. TENSILE STRENGTH – Sometimes referred to a breaking strength. The stress required causing fabric rupture.
36. TERRY CLOTH – A cotton fabric (some are made with man-made fiber blends) with loop pile on one or both sides, covering the entire surface or forming patterns. Single or ply cotton yarns are employed.
37. TEXTURE – A term describing a yarn or textile appearance, number, character, hand, etc. It may relate to the composition, structure, or the finish of the yarn or fabric.
38. THERMOPLASTIC – A term apply to substance having the property of softening higher temperature. Specifically applied to certain synthetic resins and to all the rule synthetic fibers.
39. TRICOT – Most important warp knit fabric made with two sets of threads, fine vertical wales on the face and more or less pronounced crosswise ribs on the back are the characteristic of the fabric. Tricot made with yarn crossing from a warp is highly run- resistant, and is sometimes called "double warp tricot", "two bar tricot", "glove silk" or "charmeuse". The fabric made with one set of yarn is sometimes called "single bar tricot", or "single warp tricot". When a plain knit is employed, the fabric is called 'jersey cloth". Generally made with synthetic fiber.
40. TWILL – Second of the three basic weaves. Characterized by diagonal rib or twill line generally running upward from left to right. Each and floats over or under at least two consecutive picks, and the point of intersections moved one outward and one upward to produce the diagonal.
41. TWIST – Number of turns per unit of length about the axis of fiber, roving, yarns, cord, etc. This generally indicated as turns per inch or T.P.I.
42. VAT DYES – Important commercial class of dyestuff marked by a high degree of fastness, especially to light washing.



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43. **VEGETABLE FIBER.** Fibers of vegetable origin, e.g. seed hairs: cotton, kapok; bast or soft fibers: flax, hemp; hard fibers derived from leaf or stem such as abaca and sisal. They are composed chiefly of cellulose.
44. **WARP** – The sets of yarn found in every fabric woven on the loom and running length-wise parallel to the selvage and inter-woven with filling.
45. **WASHABLE** – Term applied to garments of fabric, which may be washed without damage to color or shrinkage. Generally considered to need qualification on basis of laboratory tests as to type of washing material will stand: hand home machine, laundering, as well as by temperature.
46. **WOVEN FABRIC** – A woven fabric is one composed of the basic series of yarn, warp and filling. Weaving is the inter-lacing of these yarns to form fabric and the specific manner in which the two sets of yarns are interlaced determines the weave. There are three basic weaves, plain.