

The Categorisation Of Textiles

Woven Textiles

Woven fabrics are made up of a **weft**- the yarn going across the width of the fabric - and a **warp**- the yarn going down the length of the loom. The side of the fabric where the wefts are double-backed to form a non-fraying edge is called the **selvedge**.

Plain Weave e.g. Calico

In plain-weave fabric the warp and weft are aligned so that they form a simple criss-cross pattern. Plain-weave is strong and durable, so it's used for fashion and furnishing fabrics.

Twill Weave e.g. Denim

In twill-weave fabric the crossings of weft and warp are offset to give a diagonal pattern on the fabric surface. It's strong, drapes well and is used for jeans, jackets and curtains.

Non Woven Textiles

Nonwoven fabric is a fabric-like material made from staple fibers (short) and filament fibers (long), bonded together by chemical, mechanical, heat or solvent treatment. They are cheap to produce but not as strong as woven or knittextiles.

Felted Wool Fabric

Felt is a textile material that is produced by matting, condensing and pressing fibers together. Felt can be made of natural fibers such as wool. It can be used to make products for example this soukou (felt rug).

Bonded Fibers /Webs

Bonded fiber fabrics are made from webs of synthetic fibers which are bonded together with heat or adhesives. It can be made into many things for example these dish cloths.

Knitted Textiles

A knitted fabric is a textile that results from knitting. Its properties are distinct from woven fabrics in that it is more flexible and can be more readily constructed into smaller pieces.

Weft Knitted Fabrics

are made by looping together long lengths of yarn. They can be made by hand or machine. The yarn runs in rows across the fabric. If a stitch is dropped it will ladder down the length of the fabric. The fabric is stretchy and comfortable and is used for socks, T-shirts and jumpers.

Warp Knitted fabrics

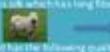
are made by loops interlocking vertically along the length of the fabric. Warp knits are slightly stretchy and do not ladder. Warp-knitted fabric is made by machine. It is used for swimwear, underwear and textiles.

Natural Fibers

Natural fibers come from plants, animals and minerals. They usually have short fibers, called staple fibers. The exception to this rule is silk, which has long fibers known as filaments.

Animal – Wool

Used for jumpers, coats and blankets and has the following qualities: warm to wear, absorbent, dries slowly, breathable, repels water, soft or coarse handle, can shrink, should be dry cleaned, good shape, not durable, creases deeply.



Vegetable (Plants)- Cotton

Used for making shirts, T-shirts and towels and has the following qualities: cool to wear, very absorbent, dries slowly, soft handle, good shape, durable, creases easily, can be washed and ironed.



Synthetic Fibers

Synthetic fibers are man-made fibers that are derived from natural substances like cellulose or oil. These are called regenerated fibers, which means the fibers are人造的 and do not always have to be synthetic yarn.

Polyester

Used for raincoats, fleecy jackets, children's nightwear, medical textiles and working clothes and has the following qualities: low weight, very absorbent, dries quickly, soft handle, good shape, very durable, crease resistant, easy care, can be recycled.



Acrylic

Used for jumpers, fleecy jackets and blankets and has the following qualities: warm to wear, very absorbent, dries quickly, soft handle, like wool, good shape, durable, can be recycled, very light.



Vocabulary to describe the properties of textiles

Aesthetic properties	Functional properties	Comfort properties
Handle Drape Colour Appearance	Strength Durability Crease resistance Flame resistance Stain Resistance Water Resistance Aftercare cost	Absorbency Breathability Elasticity Softness Stretch Warmth