FIBERS: Natural or Manufactured

Natural

Cellulose

Chemical

Manufactured

Plant

Protein

Blended
COTTON
Cotton is fun!

**Advantages:**

* Strong and durable
* Absorbent
* Serviceable
* Dries quickly
* Good wet strength
* Dyes and prints readily
* Accepts finishes easily

**Disadvantages:**

* Lacks elasticity
* Wrinkles easily
* Weakened by mildew
* Prone to shrinkage

*Cotton is a natural fiber of plant origin.*

II-III-48
LINEN

Linen is comfortable in warm weather.

Advantages:

* Strong and durable
* Dries quickly
* Dyes well
* Absorbent

Disadvantages:

* Wrinkles easily
* Prone to shrinkage
* Susceptible to mildew

Linen is a natural fiber of plant origin.
SILK

Silk is romantic and elegant.

**Advantages:**

* Luxurious
* Has elasticity
* Wrinkle resistant
* Absorbent
* Dyes easily

**Disadvantages:**

* Yellows with age
* Weakened by sunlight
* Susceptible to insect damage

*Silk is a natural fiber of animal origin.*

II-III-50
WOOL
Wool is curly and warm.

Advantages:
* Warm and soft
* Resilient
* Breathes for comfort
* Dyes easily
* Repels and absorbs moisture

Disadvantages:
* Sensitive to alkaline substances
* Shrinks and mats easily
* Susceptible to moths
* Heat sensitive

Wool is a natural fiber of animal origin.
ACETATE

Acetate is a decorative fabric.

**Advantages:**
* Absorbent
* Generally colorfast
* Luxurious feel
* Resilient
* Inexpensive

**Disadvantages:**
* Poor wet strength
* Heat sensitive
* Soluble in acetone
* Generates static electricity

*Acetate is a man-made fiber of cellulose origin.*
RAYON

Rayon was the first manufactured fiber.

**Advantages:**

* Inexpensive
* Dyes and prints easily
* Absorbent
* Accepts finishes readily

**Disadvantages:**

* Poor wet strength
* Low resiliency
* Wrinkles easily
* Weakened by sunlight

Rayon is a man-made fiber of cellulose origin.
ACRYLIC

Acrylic fibers are kitten-soft and fur-like.

**Advantages:**

* Strong
* Good elasticity
* High bulking power
* Dimensionally stable
* Can be heat set

**Disadvantages:**

* Pilling
* Holds oily stains
* Absorbency limited

Acrylic is a synthetic fiber of chemical origin.
NYLON

Nylon is the strong man of the synthetic fibers.

Advantages:

* Strong
* Quick drying
* High wet strength
* Mildew and insect resistant

Disadvantages:

* Non-absorbent
* Damaged by sunlight
* Picks up stray dyes

Nylon is a synthetic fiber of chemical origin.
Polyester pops right back into shape.

**Advantages:**

* Strong
* Wrinkle resistant
* Can be heat set
* Dimensionally stable

**Disadvantages:**

* Light colors discolor
* Holds oily stains
* Non-absorbent

Polyester is a synthetic fiber of chemical origin.