

COMPETENCY #2: Review fabric selection and preparation.

CONCEPT: Each project you make will have a certain type of fabric that will be easier to work with and fit the pattern better and others. Knowing the right fabric to choose and how to prepare it for construction will help your project to turn out the way you want it.

LECTURE/DISCUSSION

NOTE TO TEACHER: When the assignment is given to the students to bring fabric, show them examples of the fabric that will be most successful and the best to work with.

All fabrics are not right for all projects. Becoming familiar with a few vocabulary words will help in fabric selection and preparation.

VOCABULARY:

1. WOVEN fabric has yarns woven in both lengthwise and crosswise directions. A closely woven fabric is less likely to fray since it has many yarns woven tightly together.
Examples: broadcloth, poplin, kettlecloth, trigger, oxford cloth, etc.

A loosely woven fabric will fray easily and require special handling.
2. KNIT fabrics are firm but "stretchy." Double knits are a little more expensive, but are firmer and not roll. Knits do not fray, and are easy to work with. Fleece is a knit that has a nap on one side. It is thick and requires some special handling.
3. ON GRAIN - fabric has lengthwise and crosswise yarns at right angles to each other. Some off grain fabrics can be straightened, but if it has been heat set, it will not straighten. Carefully examine knits to see if they will hang straight, or lay straight, do not buy a fabric that is obviously off grain at any price, your garment will not hang properly, or fit right, and you won't wear it.
4. DEFECTS in fabric may be a spot of marking ink, a thread line that didn't take the dye, or a section that was not knit or woven the same as the rest of the piece, unless you know you can cut around the defect, do not buy it at any price. If you can work around it, you may save yourself some money.
5. Always ask for CARE INSTRUCTIONS from the fabric store. You will need to clean your garment properly to keep it looking its best for as long as possible.