

# SELECTING FABRICS FOR GARMENTS

## HOW DO THE FABRIC AND PATTERN RELATE?

The design, texture, weave, or knit and weight of the fabric, and the lines and details of the garment to be may influence the final choice. The pattern envelope will help with a list of suggested fabrics on the back.

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SUGGESTED FABRICS: cotton, cotton blends, light weight, prints, broadcloth, etc.

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## CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. If lines or detail of the pattern are the most interesting part a plain fabric may emphasize them.
2. Is matching necessary? Will it be easy to match the design at seams in the garment? Will extra fabric be needed to do the matching? Does the design go all in one direction?
3. Drape the fabric. Does the fabric have any characteristics, such as bulkiness, which might make it more attractive in one pattern rather than another?
4. Special fabrics, such as leathers, suedes, laminates, and permanent press fabrics, may be better suited to patterns that do not require easing pieces together, such as set-in sleeves.
5. Patterns with circular skirts may sag in some knit fabrics. However, double knits (i.e., they look the same on both sides) offer more shape retention.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN FABRICS - One concern is appearance:

1. Is the fabric becoming to the person who will wear it? Will it look attractive made up into the garment in mind? The best way to tell is to hold it up in front of a mirror and drape it as it will fall in the garment.
2. Will it be appropriate and pleasing for the end use of the garment?



## Other concerns are working with the fabric and its care:

3. Do you have the skills to sew on this fabric?
4. How will this fabric behave during construction and once it has been made into a garment?
5. What kind of care does this fabric require?