

LAYERED FABRICS AND NONWOVEN FABRICS

1. **LAYERED** fabrics are made from two layers of fabric fastened together by some means. A common method uses an adhesive, a sticky, glue-like substance. One layer of fabric may serve as a lining to eliminate the need for a separate lining. The lining can also support to the outside fabric.

Two knitted fabrics may be fastened together, two woven fabrics may be fastened together, or a knitted fabric may be fastened to a woven fabric or a lace fabric. Sometimes a layer of foam is attached to a layer of fabric. This is common on coat and jacket fabric because it adds warmth.

2. **NONWOVEN** fabrics are made directly from fibers rather than from yarns. The fibers are held together by means other than knitting or weaving.

- A. **BONDING** is one of the two methods used in making nonwoven fabrics. Manufactured fibers are usually used in the bonding method of making nonwoven fabrics. The fibers are bonded or held together, by chemical, mechanical, or thermal means to make bonded fabrics. Chemical bonding is done with adhesives. Mechanical bonding is done with a machine that has many hooked needles. The needles are pushed through the fibers to catch the fibers and interlock them. Thermal bonding is done with heat, which causes manufactured fibers to melt slightly and stick together.

- B. **FELTING** uses mainly wool fibers in the felting process. Heat and moisture are applied to the fibers as they are being pressed together. The scaly quality of the wool fibers allows them to hold together well.

Nonwoven fabrics are not as strong as most woven or knitted fabrics. Wool felt is used to make some decorative clothing such as vests, hats and skirts. Nonwoven fabric made by bonding may be used for disposable clothing such as hospital gowns and diapers. Nonwovens are also used for interfacing fabrics used in clothing construction.