

WEAVES

PLAIN

The most simple and most common type of construction

Inexpensive to produce

Durable

Flat, tight surface is conducive to printing and other finishes

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: each filling yarn goes alternately under and over the warp yarns

COMMON FABRICS: cotton calicos, cheesecloth, gingham, percale, voile

HOUSEHOLD USES: draperies, tablecloths, upholstery

BASKET

A variation of the plain weave

Usually basket or checkerboard pattern

Contrasting colors are often used

Inexpensive

Less durable than plain weave

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: two or more warps simultaneously interlaced with one or more fillings

COMMON FABRICS: monks cloth, oxford

HOUSEHOLD USES: wall hangings, pillows

TWILL

Creates a diagonal, chevron, houndstooth, corkscrew, or other design

The design is enhanced with colored yarn

Is strong and may develop a shine

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: three or more shafts; warp or filling floats over two or more counterpart yarns in progressive steps right or left

COMMON FABRICS: denim, gabardine, serge, tweed

HOUSEHOLD USES: upholstery, comforters, pillows

SATIN

Smooth, soft luster,

Excellent drapability

Floats snag easily

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: floats one warp yarn over four or more weft yarns, then is tied down with one thread, resulting in a smooth face with wales

COMMON FABRICS: satin, satin-weave fabrics out of fabrics such as cotton. Creates a permanent luster opposed to a finish on a fabric (satin-weave cotton versus polished cotton)

HOUSEHOLD USES: draperies, quilts

JACQUARD

Yarns woven into unlimited designs, often intricate, multicolor effect

Expensive, but the design doesn't fade or wear out

Durability depends on the fiber used.

The Jacquard loom was invented by an 18th century Frenchman named Joseph Marie Jacquard

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: warp is individually controlled with each pick passage creating intricate designs

COMMON FABRICS: brocade, damask, tapestry

HOUSEHOLD USES: upholstery, wall hangings

LENO

A mesh-like fabric

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: a pair of warp threads are passed over and under the filling yarns in a figure eight or an hourglass twist, creating a geometric pattern

COMMON FABRICS:

HOUSEHOLD USES: thermal blankets, curtains

KNIT

Soft

Stretchy

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: interlooping yarns. In weft knitting, loops are formed by hand or machine as yarn is added in crosswise direction. In warp knitting, loops are formed vertically by machine, one row at a time

COMMON FABRICS: raschel warp knits

HOUSEHOLD USES: not used extensively in design with the exception of raschel warp knits which are used in making curtains and draperies

FELT

Soft

Non-woven

Can pull apart

Generally not washable

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: felting occurs when heat, moisture, agitation, and pressure are applied to wool fibers, causing the fibers to interlock permanently. Can also be made of synthetic fibers

COMMON FABRICS: felt

HOUSEHOLD USES: padding, sound-proofing, insulation, filtering, and polishing—also used in wall hangings and other decorative items

NON-WOVEN

Does not have a distinct pattern

Generally stiff and somewhat scratchy

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: fibers are bonded by mechanical or chemical means

COMMON FABRICS: pelon

HOUSEHOLD USES: bedding, backing for quilts, dust cloths for box springs, carpet backing, and upholstered furniture

UNCUT PILE

Loops are possible on both sides of fabric

Soft and absorbent

Relatively inexpensive

Can snag if loops are caught

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: generally a plain or twill weave with a third dimension—additional warp yarn or filling yarn is introduced into the basic structure and forms a loop at regular intervals, drawn away from the surface by wires

COMMON FABRICS: frieze, terry cloth

HOUSEHOLD USES: upholstery, towels, carpet, area rugs

CUT PILE

Soft and warm

Resilient

Absorbent

May have a nap that must be matched

May be expensive and need professional cleaning

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: similar to uncut pile, but loops have been cut

COMMON FABRICS: corduroy, velvet, velveteen

HOUSEHOLD USES: upholstery, stage draperies

FILM

Plastic-like material

Repels liquid

Stiff

Mildews and rots

Tears

Inexpensive

Fairly durable

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: made from synthetic solutions formed into thin sheets

COMMON FABRICS: vinyl

HOUSEHOLD USES: tablecloths, shower curtains, draperies, upholstery, and wall coverings

FOAM

Soft

Air holes

Absorbent

Resilient

METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION: rubber or polyurethane substance with air incorporated causing foaming, quite inexpensive, rots

COMMON FABRICS: sponges

HOUSEHOLD USES: carpet backing, padding, pillows and cushions, laminates to other fabrics