

The following list contains common fabric terms and their definitions.

- Backing – a coating applied to the back of fabrics and rugs to provide better strength and stability
- Batiste – a fine fabric made from the choicest cotton yarns
- Bouclé – a yarn with bumps or loops along the length producing a texture when woven
- Brocade – satin weave fabric with a raised floral design. Traditionally in silk, now available in cottons and blends, can contain metallic threads.
- Canvas – a tightly woven cotton fabric also known as ‘duck’
- Chenille – French for ‘caterpillar’; soft fuzzy yarns, upholstery may have light latex backing
- Chintz – cotton fabric glazed with a resin finish creating a soft sheen known to repel dirt
- Corduroy – heavy fabric with evenly spaced ridges or wales
- Damask – a 13th century weave, alternating matte & satin finishes to create a reversible fabric
- Finish – a treatment producing napping, embossing, glazing, waterproofing, or wrinkle resistance
- Hand – refers to the softness, firmness, and elasticity of a fabric
- Jacquard – fabric woven on a Jacquard loom. Damasks, tapestries, and brocades are examples.
- Matelassé – French for ‘cushioned’; soft fabric that appears quilted
- Moiré – ribbed fabric with wavy watermarks produced by engraving rollers. Taffeta is an example.
- Muslin – a gauzy cotton fabric
- Ottoman – a heavy, stiffly ribbed fabric with silk warp and cotton weft
- Percale – a smooth-textured, closely woven cotton or polyester blend fabric, commonly used in sheeting
- Piqué – a closely woven ribbed fabric made from cotton or silk
- Sheer – thin translucent fabric. Lace or muslin are examples.
- Taffeta – fabric with subtle ribbing and silky texture
- Tapestry – heavy woven fabric
- Tweed – coarsely woven fabric made from natural or synthetic fibers
- Twill – fabric with diagonal grain. Herringbone, denim, and gabardine are examples.
- Shantung – a heavy fabric made from spun wild silk, with a rough, nubby texture
- Velvet – soft luxurious fabric with a short dense pile
- Voile – fine, lightweight fabric. Ideal for sheers.
- Warp – set of fixed fibers running the length of a loom, top to bottom. Applies to fabrics and rugs.
- Weft – set of fixed fibers running the width of a loom, left to right. Applies to fabrics and rugs.

