



## UNIT-3: FABRIC TERMINOLOGIES AND END USES

The product category of textiles is segmented into three large groupings viz. Apparel, Home furnishings or Industrial. Though not exhaustive, the following segmentation indicates representative classifications of fabric end uses:

Apparel				
Women's wear	Men's wear	Girls wear	Boys wear	Infant wear
Sportswear: Skirts, Blouses, T Shirts, Slacks,				
Swim wear/Beach wear				
Dresses: Casual/ evening wear				
Intimate apparel: underwear, sleep wear, robes, lounge wear				
Maternity wear				
Outer wear: sweaters, coats, jackets, rainwear				
Coats and Suits				
Accessories: hats, scarves, bags, gloves, umbrella, hosiery				
Home furnishings				
Furniture : Upholstery/ Slip covers				
Draperies: Curtains				
Domestics: Sheets/ Mattresses/ Pillows/ Spreads				
Linens: Table cloths, Napkins, Towels, Wash cloths				
Floor coverings: Carpets, Rugs, Paddings				
Miscellaneous: Lamp shades, Throws				
Industrial				
Used in Manufacturing Plants : Conveyor Belting, Printer's Blankets, Tapes, Filters				
Outdoor: Furniture, Awnings, Tents, Boat Sails				
Footwear: Sneakers, Soft Shoes				
Transportation (Automobiles, etc.): Flooring, Tires, Interior				
Miscellaneous: Laundry Bags, Aprons, Luggage, Flags, Hoses				

**Brocade:** A heavy, exquisite jacquard type fabric with an all-over raised pattern or floral design. Common end-uses include such formal applications as upholstery, draperies, and eveningwear.

**Burlap:** A loosely constructed, heavy weight, plain weave fabric used as a carpet backing, and as inexpensive packaging for sacks of grain or rice. Also, as fashion dictates, burlap may also appear as a drapery fabric.



**Cambric:** Fine, light weight closely woven fabric of linen or cotton with a high thread count. It is a plain weave fabric available in white and colors. Used chiefly for handkerchiefs, children's dresses, underwear and night gowns

**Canvas:** Cotton, linen, or synthetic fabric made with a basic plain weave in heavy and firm weight yarns for industrial or heavy duty purposes. Also referred to as "duck", although, the term "canvas" usually relates to the heavier and coarser constructions.

**Casement:** general term for sheer fabrics for curtains of plain weave variations. May be of fine or combination of heavy yarns using any kind of fibers and blends

**Chambray:** A plain woven fabric that can be made from cotton, silk, or manufactured fibers, but is most commonly cotton. It incorporates a colored warp (often blue) and white filling yarns

**Chiffon:** A plain woven lightweight, extremely sheer, airy, and soft silk fabric, containing highly twisted filament yarns. The fabric, used mainly in evening dresses and scarves, can also be made from rayon and other manufactured fibers.

**Crepe:** A lightweight fabric of silk, rayon, cotton, wool, man-made, or blended fibers, and characterized by a crinkled surface. This surface is obtained through the use of crepe yarns (yarns that have such a high twist that the yarn kinks), and by chemical treatment with caustic soda, embossing, or weaving (usually with thicker warp yarns and thinner filling yarns). Although crepe is traditionally woven, crepe yarns are now used to produce knit crepes.

**Crepe De Chine:** Traditionally, a very sheer, pebbly, washable silk with the fabric degummed to produce crinkle. Today, it is a sheer, flat crepe in silk or man-made fibers. It is used for lingerie, dresses, and blouses.

**Damask:** A glossy jacquard fabric, usually made from linen, cotton, rayon, silk, or blends. The patterns are flat and reversible. The fabric is often used in napkins, tablecloths, draperies, and upholstery.

**Denim:** Firm, left hand twill weave of white filling and colored warp usually blue. Strong, durable, heavy weights used for work clothes and sports wear. Lighter weights come in colors and patterns, are softer and may be used for sportswear and furnishings.

**Drill:** A heavy, strong, durable twilled fabric of cotton or man-made fibers, similar to denim that has a diagonal 2x1 weave running up to the left selvage. When strength of fabric is essential, drill is suitable for slacks, uniforms, overalls, and work shirts.

**Felt:** A non-woven fabric made from wool, hair, or fur, and sometimes in combination with certain manufactured fibers, where, the fibers are locked together in a process utilizing heat, moisture, and pressure to form a compact material.

**Flannel:** A medium-weight, plain or twill weave fabric that is typically made from cotton, a cotton blend, or wool. The fabric has a very soft hand, brushed on both sides to lift the fiber ends out of the base fabric and create a soft, fuzzy surface. End-uses include shirts and pajamas.

**Georgette:** A sheer lightweight fabric, often made of silk or from such manufactured fibers as polyester, with a crepe surface. End-uses include dresses and blouses.



**Gingham:** A medium weight, plain weave fabric with a plaid or check pattern. End-uses include dresses, shirts, and curtains.

**Organdy:** A stiffened, sheer, lightweight plain weave fabric, with a medium to high yarn count. End-uses include blouses, dresses, and curtains/draperies.

**Organza:** A crisp, sheer, lightweight plain weave fabric, with a medium to high yarn count, made of silk, rayon, nylon, or polyester. The fabric is used primarily in evening and wedding apparel for women.

**Oxford:** A fine, soft, lightweight woven cotton or blended with manufactured fibers in a 2 x 1 basket weave variation of the plain weave construction. The fabric is used primarily for shirtings.

**Poplin:** A fabric made using a rib variation of the plain weave. The construction is characterized by having a slight ridge effect in one direction, usually the filling. Poplin used to be associated with casual clothing, but as the "world of work" has become more relaxed, this fabric has developed into a staple of men's wardrobes, being used frequently in casual trousers.

**Satin:** A basic weave, characterized by long floats of yarn on the face of the fabric. The yarns are interlaced in such a manner that there is no definite, visible pattern of interlacing and, in this manner, a smooth and somewhat shiny surface effect is achieved. The shiny surface effect is further increased through the use of high luster filament fibers in yarns which also have a low amount of twist. A true satin weave fabric always has the warp yarns floating over filling yarns.

**Terry Cloth:** Typical uncut piles weave fabric. This fabric is formed by using two sets of warp yarns. One set of warp yarns is under very little tension; when the filling yarns are packed into place, these loose yarns are pushed backward along with the filling yarns, and loops are formed. Typical uses include towels, robes, and apparel.

**Tulle:** A lightweight, extremely fine, machine-made netting, usually with a hexagon shaped mesh effect. End-uses include dance costumes and veils.

**Velvet:** A medium weight cut-pile constructed fabric in which the cut pile stands up very straight. It is woven using two sets of warp yarns; the extra set creates the pile. It is woven on a special loom that weaves two piece of velvet at the same time. The two pieces are then cut apart and the two lengths of fabric are wound on separate take-up rolls. Velvet, a luxurious fabric, is commonly made with a filament fiber for high luster and smooth hand. Velvet is a type of tufted fabric in which the cut threads are very evenly distributed, with a short dense pile, giving it its distinct feel. Velvet can be made from any fiber.

**Voile:** A crisp, lightweight, plain weave cotton-like fabric, made with high twist yarns in a high yarn count construction. It is similar in appearance to organdy and organza. Used in blouses dresses and curtains.

**Worsted:** A tightly woven fabric made by using only long staple, combed wool or wool-blend yarns. The fabric has a hard, smooth surface. Gabardine is an example of a worsted fabric. A common end use is men's tailored suits.



## SUMMARY

The product category of textiles is segmented into three large groupings viz. Apparel, Home furnishings or Industrial. Fabric are used for various enduses viz a viz., apparel, lingerie, outer wear, home furnishings and other accessories like bags, scarves, hats, socks, etc. A number of fabrics used for different end uses to name some are cambric, poplin, chambray, denim, drill, canvas, brocade, flannel, organdy, etc.

### Test your learning:

#### 1. Segregate the following fabrics according their weave structure.

Gaberdine, Organza, Gingham, Drill, Chiffon , Canvas, Chambray, Denim, Voile, Flannel.

_____ Weave	_____ Weave

#### 2. Choose the right answer

- A pile fabric most suited for bath robes or towels is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Velvet, Terry Cloth, Flannel, Felt, Chambray)
- Fabric most suitable for napkins, table cloths, upholstery and draperies is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Poplin, Drill, Damask, Canvas, Velvet)
- Fabric suitable for veils is \_\_\_\_\_ (Organdy, Chiffon, Worsteds, Tulle, Oxford)

#### 3. List out the industrial usages of fabrics.