

My Textile Resource Book



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Identifying Fibers

Burn Test



ONLY TRY THESE TESTS WITH ADULT SUPERVISION!!

Test Procedure: Select small sample of at least six to eight yarns about 4 inches long and twist them together into about a 1/8 inch bundle or use a small square of your fabric. Hold one end with tweezers over a protected fire-resistant surface. Use a candle or match for flame.

Results

NATURAL FIBERS

Cotton: Burns, does not melt. Burning paper odor
Residue: Fine, feathery, gray ash

Linen: Same as cotton.

Silk: Burns, shrinks from flame. Charred meat odor

Wool: Burns, shrinks from flame. Burning hair odor
Residue: black, hollow irregular bead that can be crushed into a gritty black powder.

MAN-MADE FIBERS

Acetate: Residue is a hard dark, solid bead
Burning paper/vinegar odor

Acrylic: Black smoke when burned. Fishy odor

Nylon: Residue is hard, cream -colored bead that Becomes darker. Celery odor

Polyester: Residue is hard cream colored bead that Becomes darker. Flames give off black smoke.

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LINEN - Natural Fiber (Flax Plant)



Staple or glue a linen fabric sample here.

Characteristics: Comfortable
Strong Fiber
Crisp Hand
Tailors Well
Absorbent
Dyes and prints well
No static or pilling problems
Wrinkles Easily

Linen Care:

- Some linens are washable while others are dry-clean only. Check the label.
- Washable linens can be washed easily and become softer with use.
- White linens should be dried in the sun to help them keep their whiteness.
- Linen fabrics may need frequent pressing with hot iron.

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WOOL - Natural Animal Fiber

Staple or glue a wool fabric sample here.

Characteristics: Comfortable
Good insulator
Crisp Hand
Tailors Well
Absorbent
Easy to dye
Wrinkle resistant

Wool Care:

- Give wool garments a 24 hour “rest” between wearings. Hang on shaped or padded hangers. In general, wool fibers will shed wrinkles and return to their original shape. Refresh quickly by hanging them in steamy bathroom.
- If wool gets wet, dry the garment at room temperature away from heat.
- Pressing wool rules - use steam, press on reverse side of fabric, use press cloth to avoid shine, lower and lift the iron, don’t slide across.

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SILK - Natural Fiber (Silk Worm)

Staple or glue a silk fabric sample here.

Characteristics:

- Soft or Crisp Hand
- Luxurious
- Drapes and tailors well
- Thinnest of all natural fibers
- Dyes and prints well
- Little problem with static
- Doesn't pill
- Poor resistance to prolonged sunlight

Silk Care:

- Only PRE-WASHED silk is washable. READ THE LABEL
- Dry-cleaning is generally preferred, since laundering detergent and dyes in other clothes may affect silk.
- Follow care instructions carefully for washable silk.
- Never use chlorine bleach.
- For long time storage, silk should be sealed against light, air, and insects.

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Cotton - Natural Fiber (Cotton Plant)

Staple or glue a cotton fabric sample here.

Characteristics:

Comfortable
Absorbent and “breathes”
Strong and durable fiber
Dries slowly
Wrinkles easily
Resists static build up
Shrinks unless treated
Withstands heat, detergents and bleach.

Cotton Care:

- Wash in cold - warm water only. Hot water will shrink fibers
- Air dry or machine dry on low –moderate heat. Remove promptly. Hot dryer will shrink fibers.
- Iron on high heat while fabric is slightly damp. Use steam as needed.

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Rayon - Natural/Man-Made Fiber

Staple or glue a rayon fabric sample here.

Characteristics:

Soft and Comfortable
Highly Absorbent
Weak fiber when wet
Drapes well
Wrinkles easily
Short, low twisted fibers will “pill”.

Rayon Care:

- Most rayon should be dry-cleaned, but some can be hand or machine washed.
- If washing, use mild lukewarm or cool suds. Gently squeeze suds through the fabric and rinse in lukewarm water. Do not wring or twist the article.
- Fabric may go “limp” after a few washings.
- Sweaters should be laid flat to dry.
- Press while damp on wrong side with iron at a moderate setting.

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Nylon - Man-Made Fiber

Characteristics:

Exceptional strength
Drapes well
Resists shrinkage
Resists wrinkling
Fast drying
Low absorbency
Resistant to damage by oil
Static and pilling problems

Staple or glue a nylon fabric sample here.

Nylon Care:

- Most items can be machine washed and tumbled dried at low temperatures.
- Use warm water and add a fabric softener to the final rinse cycle.
- To minimize static electricity use a dryer sheet when machine drying.
- Remove articles from the dryer as soon as cycle is completed.
- Use warm iron if ironing is required.

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Polyester - Man-Made Fiber

Staple or glue a polyester fabric sample here.

Characteristics: Strong fiber
Crisp, soft hand
Resists shrinkage and stretching
Washable or dry-cleanable
Quick drying
Static and pilling problems
Wrinkle resistant
Stain removal problems

Polyester Care:

- Machine –wash in warm water, using an all-purpose detergent.
- Chlorine bleach can be used if needed.
- Fabric softener will reduce static electricity.
- Tumble-dry at a low-moderate temperature setting. Do not over dry.
- Hang promptly after drying.
- If needed, press polyester fabrics at a moderate setting or use steamer.

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Spandex - Man-Made Fiber

Staple or glue a spandex fabric sample here.

Characteristics:

- Lightweight
- Can be stretched over 500%
- Stronger than rubber
- No pilling problems
- No static problems
- Resistant to body oils/lotions
- Wrinkle resistant
- Soft, smooth and supple

Spandex Care:

- Hand or machine wash in lukewarm water.
- Do not use chlorine bleach on any fabric containing spandex.
- Air dry preferred. If machine drying, use low temperature setting.
- If ironing is needed, iron quickly on low setting, not leaving iron in one place too long.

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