

Finishing Fabrics Chooser Chart

There are many possible finishing techniques for fabrics. These processes give the final appearance and properties of the fabric. Most machinery used for these operations is highly specialized. This chart shows some ways in which fabrics can be finished. Once finished, and after final inspection, the textile is ready for making into the final product.

Process	Which Material?	Changes
<i>Altering the appearance of fabrics</i>		
mercerization (a chemical process)	cotton yarns/fabrics	Increased softness More absorbent Increased strength Increased lustre
brushing or napping (surface is mechanically brushed)	wool, cotton	Produces a soft, fluffy surface; entrapped air increases thermal insulation
calendering (fabric is subjected to pressure between rollers)	wool, cotton	Increases lustre (not washproof) moiré finish
glazing (fabric treated with resin and then subjected to pressure between rollers)	cotton chintz	Shiny finish
de-lustring	rayon	Lessens lustre on fabric
bleaching/whitening	cotton, linen	Takes colour out of fabrics but can decrease strength slightly
crêpe finishing (action of heat and moisture on hard twisted yarns)	wool, silk, viscose rayon	Gives cockled appearance and rougher surface
embossed crêping (action of heat and engraved roller sometimes with resin treatment)	synthetic fabrics	Similar to crêpe finishing but less durable

Finishing Fabrics Chooser Chart (cont'd)

Process	Which Material?	Changes
<i>Altering the feel, drape and handling properties of fabrics</i>		
crease resistance (resin treatment)	cotton	Reduces creasing but decreases softness
softening (mechanical treatment)	cotton	Softens and limpens
starching (starch treatment)	cotton, linen	Increases stiffness, used for table linen
shrinking	cotton	Prevents further shrinking
shrink resist (chemical treatment)	wool	Prevents shrinkage and felting
<i>Improving serviceability</i>		
waterproofing (through laminating or coating)	any	Impervious to water, permanent
water-repellant finish	any	A renewable finish less effective than waterproofing
stain-repellent finish	any	Increased stain resistance
windproof finishes (spray-on resins and waxing)	cotton	Windproof
wrinkle resistance (resin added to improve wash and wear)	cotton, rayon	Wrinkle-free finish
permanent pleating (resin impregnation plus hot pressing)	wool and wool/ synthetic mixtures	Permanent creases on hot pressing
flameproofing (spray-on finish)	cotton, linen, rayon	Fire resistant but often washes out
antistatic (spray on finish)	synthetics, silk	Less cling but needs renewing
absorbent finish	any	Increased absorbency for underwear, towels, etc.