

mercerized twill placket box pleat  
wickability raglan yoke nailhead waffle knit  
jersey knit rib knit running stitch herringbone  
poplin drop needle pique supima pima  
grosgrain ottoman triple needle seam sealed  
oxford microfiber locker patch bonding

# Clothing Terms

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**1x1 Rib Knit.** This narrow rib has a soft, fine hand and retains its slim fit.

**2x1 Rib Knit.** Textured rib knit with a comfortable stretch—made to be worn alone or layered.

**2-Way Zipper.** A zipper with two zipper pulls so the garment can be unzipped from either direction.

**4-Needle Stitching.** A finish commonly used on a sleeve or bottom hem that uses four needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching, giving the garment a cleaner, more finished look, as well as adding durability.

**All-Weather Microfiber.** Fabric that is tightly woven from an extremely fine poly thread with a sueded finish for a luxuriously supple feel. When combined with waterproof coating and full seam sealing, microfiber is 100% waterproof. 100% polyester.

**ANSI.** The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is an organization that promotes standards for industry and government.

**ANSI Class 2.** An ANSI designation for garments that are intended for activities where greater visibility is necessary during inclement weather. It also covers workers who perform tasks that divert their attention from approaching traffic or puts them in close proximity to vehicles traveling 25 mph or higher.

**ANSI Class 3.** An ANSI designation for garments that provide the highest level of visibility and are intended for workers who face more serious hazards than Class 2.

**Antimicrobial.** A term used for a garment that is able to resist, either naturally or chemically, the effects of microbial secretions put off by the human body, resisting odor and increasing garment life.

**Anti-Pill Finish.** A treatment applied to garments primarily to resist the formation of little balls on the fabric's surface due to abrasion during wear. See Pilling.

**Baby Pique Knit.** A knitting method that creates a fine, small textured surface that appears similar to a very small waffle weave. See Pique Knit.

**Back Yoke.** A piece of fabric that connects the back of a garment to the shoulders. This allows the garment to lay flat and drape nicely.

**Bartack.** To reinforce a seam with a bar of stitches, providing a more durable seam end. Commonly used at stress points.

**Birdseye Jacquard.** A small geometric pattern with a center dot knit into the fabric.

**Blend.** A yarn or a fabric that is made up of more than one type of fiber.

**Bonded Fleece.** Multiple layers of fleece are bonded together to form a higher functioning garment.

**Bonding.** The technique of permanently joining together two fabrics or layers of fabrics together by a bonding agent into one unit.

**Box Pleat.** A single, uniform fold in the center back of a garment to allow for more room and comfort.

**Breathability.** The movement of water or water vapor from one side of the fabric to the other, caused by capillary action, wicking, chemical or electrostatic action.

**Breathability Rating.** The breathability rating is expressed in a gram measurement of how much vapor a square meter (G/M2) of fabric will allow to pass in a 24-hour period.

**Brushed.** A finishing process for knit or woven fabrics in which brushes or other abrading devices are used to raise a nap on fabrics or create a novelty surface texture.

**Button-Down Collar.** Found on many men's dress wovens, where the collar's wings can be buttoned to the front of the shirt, minimizing the spread between the wings.

**Button-Through Sleeve Placket.** A small placket located near the end of the sleeve, by the cuff, which contains a single button closure.

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**Cashmere.** A luxury fiber obtained from the soft fleecy undergrowth of the Kashmir goat. Prized for its warmth and its softness, cashmere is most commonly used in sweaters, shawls, suits, coats and dresses.

**Casual Microfiber.** Tightly woven fabric from a very fine polyester thread, usually with a sueded finish for a soft feel. Inherently water repellent and wind resistant due to its construction. 100% polyester microfiber.

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

**Collar.** The upright or turned-over neckband of a coat, jacket or shirt.

**Colorfast.** A dyed fabric's ability to resist fading due to washing, exposure to sunlight and other environmental conditions.

**Combed.** A process by which the short fibers of a yarn are removed and the remaining longer fibers are arranged in parallel order for a high quality yarn with excellent strength, fineness and uniformity.

**Cool Mesh™ Technology.** Similar to a pique knit but with a more open texture for increased breathability. Features a soft hand for better comfort.

**Cord Locks.** A stopper or toggle on a drawcord that keeps the cord from retracting into the garment.

**Cotton.** Soft vegetable fiber obtained from the seedpod of the cotton plant.

**Coverseamed.** A finish in which two needles are used to create parallel rows of visible stitching. It is used around the neck, armholes, waistband and wrists of garments to create a cleaner, more durable finish.

**Cross-grain.** The direction of woven fabric 45 degrees to its vertical and horizontal threads. In fleece styles, this cut helps maintain length without shrinkage.

**Denier.** A system of measuring the weight of a continuous filament fiber. The lower the number, the finer the fiber; the higher the number, the heavier the fiber.

**Dobby.** A decorative weave, usually geometric, that is woven into the fabric. Standard dobby fabrics are usually flat and relatively fine or sheer.

**Double Knit.** A circular knit fabric knitted via double stitch on a double needle frame to provide a double thickness.

**Double-Needle Stitching.** A finish commonly used on a sleeve or bottom hem that uses two needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching, giving the garment a cleaner, more finished look, as well as adding durability.

**Down.** The soft, fluffy under feathers of ducks and geese. Serves as an excellent thermal insulator outerwear.

**Drop Needle.** A knit fabric characterized by vertical lines within the cloth. Manufactured by dropping a needle from the knitting cylinder.

**Drop Tail.** A longer back than front for the purpose of keeping the shirt tucked in. Also referred to as Extended Tail.

**Duck Cloth.** Tightly woven, plain-weave, bottom-weight fabric with a hard, durable finish that provides wind and snag resistance.

**Dyed-To-Match.** A term which characterizes buttons or trims that are the same color as the garment onto which they are sewn.

**End-on-End.** A weave pattern in which the warp yarn (the yard running lengthwise) alternates between colors.

**Enzyme Washed.** A laundering process in which a catalytic substance is added to create a chemical change in the fabric resulting in a very soft finish, smoother appearing surface and reduced shrinkage.

**Ergonomic.** Design elements incorporated into a garment to improve the design by enhancing the wearer's comfort, performance or health.

**Extended Tail.** A longer back than front for the purpose of keeping the shirt tucked in. Also referred to as Drop Tail.

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**Eyelets.** Small holes or perforations made in a series to allow for breathability. Finished with either stitching or brass grommets.

**Flat Collar/Cuffs.** A single ply fabric with a finished edge that is used for collars and cuffs on sport shirts and short sleeve garments. Also known as welt.

**Full Cut.** Refers to a garment's fit as being generous and roomy.

**Garment Dyed.** A dyeing process that occurs after the garment is assembled.

**Garment Washed.** A wash process where softeners are added to finished garments to help the cotton fibers relax. The result is a fabric with a thicker appearance, reduced shrinkage and a softer hand.

**Grosgrain.** A firm, closely woven fabric with narrow horizontal stripes. Commonly used for ribbons, neckties and trimmings.

**Hand.** Quality or characteristic of fabrics perceived by sense of touch—softness, firmness or drape.

**Herringbone.** A chevron or zig-zag pattern knit into fabric. Commonly used in golf shirts and twill shirts.

**High Profile.** A term used for a cap or hat silhouette that is less fitted to the head with a high slope. Usually structured with buckram or other stiff fabric lining.

**Honeycomb Pique Knit.** A pique fabric with a waffle or cellular appearance.

**Horn Tone Buttons.** Buttons that appear to be manufactured from horn.

**Houndstooth.** A medium-sized broken check effect that is knit into the fabric.

**IL50 (Industrial Laundry).** Signifies that a garment has been certified to withstand at least 50 industrial laundry cycles, which are typically about ten times more strenuous than a home wash.

**Interlock Knit.** A two-ply fabric knit simultaneously to form one thicker and heavier ply. It has more natural stretch than a jersey knit, a soft hand, and the same appearance and feel on both sides. Commonly used in knit shirts and turtlenecks.

**Jacquard Knit.** Often an intricate pattern knit directly into the fabric during the manufacturing process. Typically, two or more colors are used.

**Jersey Knit.** The consistent interloping of yarns in the jersey stitch to produce a fabric with a smooth, flat face and a more textured, but uniform back.

**Linen.** A fabric made from linen fibers obtained from inside the woody stem of the flax plant. Linen fibers are much stronger and more lustrous than cotton. Linen fabrics are very cool and absorbent, but wrinkle easily, unless blended with manufactured fibers.

**Locker Loop.** A looped piece of fabric in the neck of a garment for the convenience of hanging the garment on a hook. Can also be located at the center of the back yoke on the inside or outside of a garment.

**Locker Patch.** A semi-oval panel sewn into the inside back portion of a garment, just under the collar seam to reinforce the garment and minimize stretching when hung on a hook. The patch also allows for the garment tag or label to be sewn below the neckline to help prevent irritation.

**Low Profile.** A term used for a cap or hat silhouette that is more closely fitted to the head. Can be either structured or unstructured.

**Lycra® Fiber.** INVISTA's trademark for a synthetic fabric material with the elastic properties of spandex.

**Matte Taslan.** A durable and water repellent nylon fabric, used mainly in outerwear garments. Same properties and hand as traditional Taslan, but with a dull, matte finish.

**Melamine.** A highly resistant, exceptionally strong plastic laminate material sometimes used in buttons.

**Melange.** A mix of different colors of yarns knit together to create a heathered effect.

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**Mercerized.** The result of a process in which cotton yarn or fabric is immersed in a caustic soda solution and later neutralized with an acid bath. This process increases luster, strength and affinity for dyes.

**Mesh.** A type of fabric characterized by its net-like open appearance and the spaces between the yarns. Mesh is available in a variety of constructions, including wovens, knits, laces or crocheted fabrics.

**Microfiber.** Tightly woven fabric from a very fine polyester thread, usually with a sueded finish for a soft feel. Inherently water repellent and wind resistant due to its construction.

**Microfleece.** Crafted from ultra-fine yarn, this lightweight, high-density fleece is brushed less than a regular fleece garment for a tight look, excellent softness and warmth. 100% polyester microfleece.

**Mid Profile.** A term used for a cap or hat silhouette that is in between that of a High Profile and Low Profile. Most often structured with buckram.

**Nailhead.** A jacquard knitting pattern in which the jacquard forms a design similar to small nail heads.

**Nap.** A fuzzy, fur-like feel created when fiber ends extend from the basic fabric structure to the fabric surface. The fabric can be napped on one or both sides.

**Non-Iron.** A term characterizing fabric that has been chemically treated to resist wrinkles, eliminating the need for ironing.

**Nylon.** A synthetic fiber with high strength and abrasion resistance, low absorbency and good elasticity.

**Ottoman.** A tightly woven, horizontal raised rib textured knit.

**Overdyed.** A process in which yarn-dyed fabrics or piece-dyed garments are put through an additional dye color to create unique colors.

**Oxford.** A fine, lightweight woven cotton or cotton blend fabric with a 2x1 basket weave variation. Typically used for dress shirts.

**Patch Pocket.** A pocket attached to the outside of a garment.

**Peached.** A soft hand usually obtained by sanding the fabric lightly. Can be achieved with chemical or laundry abrasion.

**Pebble Fleece.** Polyester pique fleece with a subtle texture resembling cobblestones or pebbles. Buttons that have a pearl-colored hue.

**Piece Dyed.** A dyeing process that occurs when the fabric is in yardage form after it has been knitted or woven, but before the garment is assembled.

**Pigment Dyed.** A type of dye process used to create a distressed or washed look that results in soft, muted tones and a soft hand.

**Pilling.** A tangled ball of fibers that appears on the surface of a fabric as a result of wear or continued friction or rubbing on the surface of the fabric. See Anti-Pill Finish.

**Pima Cotton.** A term applied to extra-long staple cotton grown in the U.S., Peru, Israel and Australia. It can only be grown in select areas where the cotton is fully irrigated and benefits from a longer growing season for a softer, stronger cotton than standard cotton.

**Pique Knit.** A knitting method that creates a fine textured surface that appears similar to a waffle weave. Commonly used for polo shirts.

**Placket.** The part of a shirt or jacket where the garment fastens or buttons together.

**Ply.** Two or more yarns that have been twisted together.

**Polyester.** A strong, durable synthetic fabric with high strength and excellent resiliency. Low moisture absorbency allows the fabric to dry quickly.

**Poly-Filled.** A warm polyester lining found in the body or sleeves of outerwear garments. It has more loft than a regular nylon lining.

**Polynosic.** A type of microfiber that features similar characteristics to cotton and silk with excellent luster and very little shrinkage.

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**Polyurethane Coating (PU Coating).** A finish commonly used in winter jackets, rainwear and windwear to offer high performance water resistance, while maintaining the garment's breathability.

**Popcorn Pique.** Alternating rows of baby pique knit and a larger pique knit that resembles small circles knit closely together.

**Poplin.** A tightly woven, durable, medium-weight cotton or cotton blend made by using a rib variation of the plain weave which creates a slight ridge effect.

**Pre-Shrunk.** Fabrics or garments that have received a pre-shrinking treatment.

**Princess Seams.** Short, stitched folds that taper to a point, typically used to shape women's garments.

**PVC.** A polyurethane coating that is added to make garments water resistant.

**Quilting.** A fabric construction in which a layer of down or fiberfill is placed between two layers of fabric, and then held in place by stitching or sealing in a consistent, all-over pattern.

**Raglan Sleeves.** An athletic cut sleeve set with a diagonal seam from the neck to the underarm. Offers more freedom of movement in comparison with set-in sleeves.

**Rayon.** A manufactured fiber composed of regenerated cellulose, derived from wood pulp, cotton linters or other vegetable matter, with a soft hand. Frequently used for shirts and pants.

**Reverse Placket.** When the buttons on a placket are on the opposite side from a men's garment. Commonly done on women's styles.

**Rib Knit.** A textured knit that has the appearance of vertical lines. It is highly elastic and retains its shape. Commonly used for sleeve and neck bands.

**Ringspun.** Yarn made by continuously twisting and thinning a rope of cotton fibers. The twisting makes the short hairs of cotton stand out, resulting in a stronger yarn with a significantly softer hand.

**Rip-Stop Nylon.** A lightweight, wind and water resistant plain weave fabric with large rib yarns that stop tears without adding excess weight. Often used in activewear.

**Running Stitch.** A stitch that is spaced equally, with the underside stitching being half the length of the external side.

**Sandwashed.** A process in which the fabric is washed with very fine lava rocks or rubber/silicon balls, resulting in a softer fabric with a relaxed look and reduced shrinkage.

**Scoop Neck.** Characterized by a deep, rounded neckline that is significantly deeper than normal necklines. Typically found on women's shirts.

**Sculpted Hem.** A hem that is softly rounded for fashion detail and un-tucked wear.

**Seam Sealing.** The process of treating the stitch holes and seams of a garment to prevent leaking and to ensure full waterproof integrity.

**Self-Fabric Collar.** A collar that is constructed from the same material as the body of the garment.

**Self-Fabric Sweatband.** Refers to a panel of fabric at the front of a cap that is constructed from the same fabric as the crown of the cap.

**Serge.** An overcasting technique done on the cut edge of the fabric to prevent unraveling.

**Set-In Sleeves.** Most common style of sleeve, which is sewn into the shoulder seam.

**Side Vents.** Slits found at the bottom of side seams, used for fashion detailing, as well as comfort and ease of movement.

**Silk.** A natural filament fiber produced by the silkworm in the construction of its cocoon. The shimmering appearance for which silk is prized

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comes from the fiber's triangular, prism-like structure, which allows silk fabric to refract incoming light at different angles. Silk is recognized for its fine hand and fluid drape.

**Singles.** A term used to indicate the diameter of a yarn. The smaller the number, the thicker the yarn.

**Slash Pockets.** A pocket in a garment to which access is provided by a vertical or diagonal slit in the outside of the garment.

**Slub Cotton.** A soft, textured cotton that is lightweight without being overly sheer. 100% slub cotton jersey.

**Soft Shell.** A fabrication that combines the benefits of hard shell fabrics with a breathable, flexible and comfortable fabric.

**Soil Release Finish.** A fabric treatment that helps a garment release stains in the wash.

**Spandex.** A manufactured elastometric fiber that can be repeatedly stretched over 500% without breaking and will still recover to its original length.

**Sport-Wick Fleece.** An anti-static fleece that provides moisture wicking by releasing moisture from the inner layers.

**Stain Resistance.** A fiber or fabric property of resisting spots and stains. Commonly used for industrial or restaurant uniforms.

**Stonewashed.** A process in which the fabric or garment is heavily washed with lava rocks or rubber/silicon balls, resulting in a softer fabric with a distressed, weathered look and reduced shrinkage.

**Storm Flap.** A piece of fabric that covers and protects an opening, usually a zipper, on an item of clothing. It is designed to add another barrier on more vulnerable parts of the clothing to protect against wind and moisture.

**Structured.** A headwear term referring to a buckram lining used to control the slope of the cap.

**Sueded.** A process in which fabric goes through a brushing process to raise the nap and give the garment a soft hand.

**Supima Cotton.** Supima is a licensed trademark owned by Supima and its members, used to promote apparel products made of 100% American Pima Cotton.

**Taped Seams.** A strip of fabric sewn to the seam of a garment to prevent distortion. In outerwear, taped seams aid in waterproofing.

**Taslan.** A durable and water repellent nylon fabric with a slightly shiny surface, used mainly in outerwear garments.

**Teklon.** A rugged, stronger Taslan nylon that is water repellent.

**Tencel.** A brand name for the generic fiber Lyocell, which is made from dissolved wood pulp that is then exuded. Lyocell is chemically identical to rayon, but its molecular structure gives it the texture, drape and softness of silk.

**Tricot Lining.** A very lightweight nylon lining often used in shorts.

**Triple-Needle Stitched.** A finish commonly used on a sleeve or bottom hem that uses three needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching, giving the garment a cleaner, more finished look, as well as adding durability.

**Tubular Collar.** A collar knit in a tube form, so it has no seams.

**Tuck-In Tails.** A shirt constructed so the back hem is longer than the front. This aids in keeping the shirt tucked-in during normal activities.

**Tuck Stitch.** Refers to the look of the knit where some stitches are actually under the other stitches. Gives the shirt a waffle weave texture and look.

**Twill.** A fabric characterized by micro diagonal ribs producing a soft, smooth finish. Commonly used for casual woven shirts.

**Twill Tape.** Attached to the inside of the placket for a fashion effect.

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**Two Ply.** A yarn in which its thickness is made up of two layers or strands, adding durability and weight.

**Underarm Grommets.** Small holes in the armpit area to allow breathability and air circulation.

**Unstructured.** A headwear term referring to a low profile cap with a naturally low sloping crown. No buckram has been added to the crown for structure.

**UV-Protective Fabric.** A term used to refer to a fabric that resists the ability of ultraviolet rays to penetrate the fabric. Protects the fabric from fading and the wearer's skin from UV rays.

**V Patch.** A section of material in a V shape that is sewn onto a garment directly under the collar, providing support against stretching the neck opening. Also a style detail.

**Vents.** An opening in a garment which assists breathability and can aid in ease of decoration, allowing the garment to be hooped and embroidered with no visibility on the inside lining of the garment. Some vents are tacked down and are for fashion purposes only.

**Waffle Knit.** A square pattern knit into a garment.

**Waffle Weave.** A square pattern woven into a garment.

**Washer Nylon.** A nylon garment treated with a special finish to produce a crinkled effect.

**Waterproof.** A term applied to fabrics whose pores have been closed and will not allow water to pass through.

**Waterproof Rating.** The waterproof rating is expressed in millimeters (MM) and refers to the amount of water a garment will hold before it leaks.

**Water Repellant.** A fabric's ability to cause moisture to bead up and roll off a garment.

**Water Resistant.** A fabric's ability to resist moisture.

**Weathered Twill.** A special dye process resulting in a softer fabric with a weathered appearance.

**Welded Pockets.** The technique by which seams are affixed to one another without sticking.

**Windshirt.** A typically water and wind resistant outerwear piece. Popular for golfers.

**Wind Resistant.** The ability of a fabric to act against or oppose the penetration of wind or air, without being completely windproof.

**Wickability.** The ability of a fiber or a fabric to disperse moisture and allow it to pass through to the surface, so that evaporation can take place.

**Wicking.** Dispersing or spreading of moisture or liquid through a given area by capillary action in a fabric.

**Wool.** Usually associated with fiber or fabric made from the fleece of sheep or lamb. The term wool can also be applied to all animal hair fibers, including the hair of the Cashmere or Angora goat or the specialty hair fibers of the camel, alpaca, llama or vicuna.

**Woven.** Fabric constructed by the interlacing of two or more sets of yarns at right angles to each other. Woven fabrics are commonly used for dress shirts and camp shirts.

**Yarn Dyed.** A term used when yarn is dyed prior to the weaving or knitting of the garment.

**Yoke.** A part of the garment fitted closely to the shoulders. Typically seen on the back as on a dress shirt, but may also be on the front, as on a Western style shirt.

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