

# Fabric Selection



Day Dreams Custom Sewing  
& Handmade Gifts

## Beginner Basics In Sewing

- Tools
- Machine Basics
- Reading Patterns
- Fabric Selections
- Measurements & Shape
- Picking the Pattern

Help/Information, write to:

sher@daydreemz.net

Learning fabrics is a whole course and class on it's own. It's something you might know the basics of and that's okay for purchasing your first easy to make patterns. Let's take a little more detailed look at the common fabrics selected for beginners and what some of the terms are you will be presented with on patterns.



“Not Suitable for Diagonals”

“Not Suitable for Plaids/One Way Fabrics”

**Even though you may like the fabric you see in front of you at the store, and you really feel it would look great on you, there is a choice to be made. Not all patterns work with all fabrics. It's important to pay close attention to the “Suitable” fabrics listed on the pattern back.**

**There are some exceptions, but they are few. A quick review of fabric types:**

## Fabric Types

- **Woven fabric:** Woven fabric is created on a loom and is generally stable and less stretchy. This tends to be the most commonly used. Examples are Corduroy, Chinz, Crepe, Denim, Flannel, Gabardine, Georgette, Cashmere Silk, Muslin, Polin, Sheeting, Velvet, Cotton, Wool, Linen.
- **Non-woven fabric:** Non-woven fabric is made by bonding long fibers together, and tends to lack strength for some applications. Examples are interlinings, Padding, Polyester, Cotton—Poly Blends, Felt, Bonding, Some Wool and Cottons.
- **Knit fabric:** Knits are made by interlocking stitches in vertical rows. Knit fabrics are usually thick and drape well. Jersey, Rib, Double Knits.
- **Microfiber fabric:** This fabric is produced by tightly bound synthetic fibers, generally polyester, producing a plush material. Application examples are Towels, Undergarments, Upholstery, Cleaning Cloths, Clothing Accessories, Bedding, Sportswear.

## Factors to Consider in Purchase of Your Fabric:

- **Weight**—Affects drape (how material hangs when constructed)
- **Width**—Normally fabric is sold (folded in half) in widths of 44-45”. Specialty fabrics are 55-60” wide and used for projects such as quilting, bedding, formal wear (dresses), etc.
- **One Way Direction, Plaids**—Check pattern to determine if these are suitable for your project. You will find this in the “Suggested Fabrics” section on the back of the pattern.

### **Fabric Examination Before Purchase:**

- Read the end of the bolt (top or bottom). You will see the fabric type, care and laundry instructions.
- If possible, see the fabric in natural lighting. Take the bolt to a window of the store and examine for flaws such as discoloration, runs, uneven print. You can ask the clerk to cut around the flaw or past it—the other option is to ask for the flaw to be left there and not be charged for the amount of fabric it covers.
- Scrunch the fabric to test for wrinkles—does it wrinkle easily?
- Test the bias—give it a good stretch from the corner diagonally, then lengthwise. Lay the fabric so selvages are together. Are the selvages matching? If not, the grain is not straight and you will lose yardage that you have paid for.

### **Interfacing**

There are several brands of interfacing but 2 types: Fusible and Sew In. They come in Woven, Non-Woven and Knit as fabrics above do. Each serves a purpose or preference by the user.

Fusible has become popular but once it is attached to the fabric, it is permanent. If there is a mistake with the fused piece it can be costly.

Sew On Interfacing is a standard and less costly than fusible.

*Check your pattern for recommended type of interfacing or with the store clerk.*



***See the file from Threads for a handy reference chart on Interfacings.***