



# FABRIC

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## JOANN FIELD GUIDE

NAME

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# Introduction

Hi there! Welcome to the JOANN Field Guide to Fabric.

If you found your way to this guide, it's probably because you need some clarification about the different types of fabric that exist and what they're used for. With so many kinds and uses, it's no wonder!

We carry fabrics for apparel, quilting, crafts, and home decor, as well as a variety of utility—or specialty—fabrics that all have unique characteristics and uses.

For specific projects and inspiration, make sure to visit [joann.com/projects](https://joann.com/projects). But, when you just need some basic information, this glossary is your go-to reference. We hope you'll use it often!

Have more questions? Stop by The Cut Bar for some friendly advice, or check out the classes we offer at [joann.com/classes](https://joann.com/classes).

## Fabric Type Descriptions

**Anti-Pill Fleece** -- fleece processed in a way that reduces pilling; the fibers are often cut shorter than ordinary fleece

**Batik** -- made by stamping a design on fabric in wax so it rejects the dye. It can be dyed first, stamped, dyed again, then wax removed to make unique, multicolored patterns.

**Batiste** -- thin, lightweight, sheer cotton fabric; used for light summer clothing & traditional handkerchiefs. Also good for sheers

**Batting** -- commonly used as stuffing for quilts, it can vary widely in thickness & content; sold pre-measured & by-the-yard

**Blackout** -- foam-backed, opaque fabric used to block light

**Bottom Weight** -- heavier-weight fabrics, like twill or denim; fabric weight refers to denseness of weave

**Broadcloth** -- tightly-woven fabric, with a dense, smooth texture & glossy finish

**Brocade & Sari** -- rich, elaborate fabrics with raised designs, typically woven with gold or silver threads

**Buckram** -- woven stabilizer made from cotton fibers and soaked in a starch-like substance to become stiff; often used for bookbinding and hat-making but also used to lend support and structure to apparel and handbags

**Bunting** -- light, loosely woven cloth used for festive decorations (flags, ribbons, banners); also, the word to describe these decorations

**Burlap** -- plain, coarse, heavyweight fabric made with 100% natural jute fiber; used for home decor & crafting, carpet backing & grain sacks

**Calico** -- light cotton with a print on only one side of the fabric; commonly used for dresses, aprons & quilts

**Canvas** -- extremely durable, plain weave fabric; also known as a utility fabric

**Cargo Netting** -- strong, large-weave netting; good for breathable picnic & beach totes; often used in cars to keep cargo from shifting

**Chalkboard** -- lightweight, flexible vinyl that can be used as a chalkboard; also known as blackboard fabric

**Challis** -- lightweight, smooth, breathable rayon fabric with a fluid drape

**Chambray** -- smooth, lightweight apparel fabric with a characteristic weaving of colored yarn with white yarn

**Chantilly Lace** -- scallop-edged lace, often woven with designs of scrolls, vases or flowers, which are outlined by thick cords; commonly used as trimming for bridal gowns & veils

**Charmeuse** -- soft, smooth, lightweight dress & blouse fabric, woven from silk or polyester, with a satin-like finish. May or may not have spandex added for stretch

**Chenille** -- tufted & velvety cord or yarn, used to make sweaters, blankets, pillows & upholstery

**Cheesecloth** -- loose-woven, soft fabric; typically undyed and used in cooking & cheese making

**Chiffon** -- very light, sheer fabric made from silk, nylon, or polyester; typically used for scarves & flowing dresses

**Chintz** -- printed, multicolored and/or patterned fabric with glazed finish, most often used for curtains & upholstery; also known as polished cotton

**Corduroy** -- sturdy cotton fabric with soft, vertical, velvety ridges, called cords

**Cork** -- real cork, backed by a thin layer of fabric, this is thin enough to use with a sewing machine, yet durable and pliable; ideal for making handbags and wallets

**Cosplay** -- term for a range of colorful, vivid fabrics used to create elaborate costumes

**Cotton** -- a natural, soft fiber known for its breathability; used in clothing, home decor & crafts

**Crepe** -- lightweight woven or knitted fabric, with a distinctive crisp, pebbled appearance

**Crinoline** -- stiffened, open-weave fabric; once made of horsehair & linen and used for petticoats and in millinery; still used to make stiff underskirts for costumes & evening/ball gowns

**Damask** -- rich, heavy fabric with a reversible weave; typically used for upholstery & home decor

**Denim** -- extremely sturdy cotton twill fabric, usually woven from blue & white threads; used for clothing, such as jeans, overalls and other apparel. Also used for home decor projects like pillows, bedding, poufs and wall decor.

**Diaper Cloth** -- originally referred to 100% cotton fabric used for washable diapers

**Double Cloth** -- two distinct fabrics connected at regular intervals in the weave to form a two-layered cloth; commonly used for coats, blankets, furnishings, reversible clothing

**Drill (Chino)** -- extremely durable cotton fabric with a strong diagonal weave; typically used for khakis, sneakers, military uniforms

**Duck** -- strong, durable & versatile cotton fabric, lighter than standard canvas or sailcloth; popular for workwear, camping gear

**Dupioni** -- crisp, silk fabric with irregular slubs; often used in bridal & formal wear; suitable for upholstery & other home décor, such as drapes/curtains

**Embroidered** -- any fabric that's embellished with embroidery (stitched, decorative designs that may also incorporate other materials such as pearls, beads, and sequins)

**Eyelet** -- fabric designed with patterned cut-outs, often bordered with stitching to keep prevent the edges from unraveling

**Fabric Quarters** -- popular way for quilters to buy fabric; one yard of fabric is cut down into 18"x 21" pieces

**Faux or Fake Fur** -- slang term for synthetic materials made to look as if made from animal pelts; also known as fun fur

**Faux or Fake Leather** -- a term used to describe artificial or synthetic leathers

**Felt** -- a non-woven material made by joining fibers using heat, moisture & pressure

**Flannel** -- cotton, wool or synthetic fabric brushed on both sides for softness

**Flannel Back Satin** -- polyester satin fabric strengthened with a flannel backing for use in upholstery & home decor projects

**Flannel Shirtings** -- flannel fabrics used for casual shirts; most often brushed twill or brushed poplin

**Fleece** -- umbrella term for a range of warm, soft materials made from natural or synthetic fibers; typically used to make warm clothing & accessories

**French Terry** -- knit jersey with loops on one side, designed to absorb water

**Fur** -- usually woven or knitted from rayon, wool or cotton, finer than faux fur; made with a pile that is dyed & finished to resemble an animal's fur

**Gabardine** -- twill fabric with a highly durable, compact weave; wool gabardine is used year-round for classic business suiting

**Gauze** -- thin, sheer fabric with loose, open weave

**Grip Stop** -- 100% cotton fabric with a grip backing to reduce slippage; often used on the back of rugs, slippers, pajama feet

**Insul-Bright** -- insulating utility fabric used to provide insulation to maintain cold temperatures in lunch or grocery bags as well as protection against heat transference, as around water heaters & in potholders

**Interfacing** -- a stabilizing material, typically used between two layers of fabric; often found in collars & facings; can be sewn in or fusible

**Interlock Knit** -- double-sided, smooth, stretchable fabric; typically twice as thick as standard jersey

**Ironing Board Cover** -- utility fabric with a smooth, heat-resistant, aluminized surface which can withstand the high temperatures of an iron

**Jacquard** -- fabric with an elaborate pattern incorporated directly into the weave rather than printed onto its surface

**Jersey Knit** -- stretchable, lightweight fabric, usually cotton or cotton/synthetic blend. Jersey knits have a visible "right side" & "wrong side"; commonly used for T-shirts, pajamas, dresses & other apparel

**Knit** -- umbrella term for a range of fabrics made from one continuous, interlacing fiber, rather than the two-part weave of other fabrics; valued in apparel manufacture for its stretchability & versatility

**Lace** -- delicate fabric made when yarn or thread is woven in a decorative, open, weblike pattern; used in apparel, particularly bridal & as trim, as well as curtains/drapes & other decor

**Lamé** -- delicate fabric woven with silver or gold threads; primarily for limited-use items--theatrical costumes, evening wear

**Lawn** -- light, crisp cloth made of of cotton or linen; used in spring/summer apparel

**Linen** -- woven from flax, linen is often lightweight and favored for its coolness in hot weather. Also used for home decor projects

**Lycra**--a synthetic fiber know for its exceptional elasticity; used to make stylish apparel, sportswear, performance wear, gym outfits, and swimwear that lend perfect body silhouette (also known as Spandex)

**Madras** -- lightweight cotton fabric with a brightly-colored, distinctive plaid or checkered pattern; used for casual clothing and home decor projects

**Mesh** -- characterized by a net-like, open weaves; found in lace, netting, tulle, as well as many utility fabrics

**Micro-Fleece** -- particularly soft fleece, perfect for baby blankets & accessories, cold-weather clothing & winter wear

**Minky** -- super soft, plush fabric which resembles real mink & can be as soft as cashmere; often used for baby blankets, plush toys

**Moisture-Wicking** -- characterized by ability to pull perspiration from the body to the exterior of the fabric where it can evaporate more easily; typically made from polyester blends which don't retain moisture like natural fabrics

**Moleskin** -- material typically made with synthetic fibers with a soft pile on one side of the fabric; similar to felt or chamois in feel, but equal to denim in durability; typically used in clothing

**Monk's Cloth** -- coarse, heavyweight cotton often used for draperies, decor & craft projects

**Mosquito Netting** -- meshed fabric used as protection against insects; can also be used for canopies

**Muslin** -- inexpensive, natural or bleached cotton fabric; often used for burping cloths & film/photographic backdrops. Great "test" fabric for making garments, pattern making, and other sewing projects

**Nylon** -- very strong and elastic synthetic fibers used to make fabrics, plastics, molded products

**Oil Cloth** -- cotton fabric coated with a waterproof finish; commonly used for raincoats, luggage, bibs

**Organdy** -- sheer, crisp & delicate, similar to organza; typically made of spun cotton yarn

**Organza** -- equally sheer, crisp & delicate as organdy, but made of filament yarn; typically polyester, rayon or silk

**Osnaburg** -- coarse, heavy cotton; used for furnishings & bags

**Panné Velvet** -- lightweight velvet fabric in which the pile is flattened in one direction by a roller-press, which gives it its shine

**Performance** -- built for active wear; fabric can include enhancements such as sun protection & moisture wicking

**Pet/Mesh Screening** -- multi-use vinyl mesh screen fabric; often used as an insect/pet barrier

**Plissé**-- cotton fabric with a crinkled or puckered texture; found in nightgowns, summer shirts

**Polycotton** -- wrinkle-resistant blend of polyester & cotton; less breathable than cotton, can be sweaty when worn next to the skin

**Polyester** -- defined by the polymer fibers it is made from; popular as an apparel fabric since it is durable, wrinkle- & stretch-resistant, easily dyed, and requires no ironing or special cleaning

**Poplin** -- strong fabric with a fine rib weave; typically used for sportswear, semi-casual wear, pajamas, decorative fabric

**Protective Flannel** -- 100% cotton with a plastic film between two layers of flannel to create a liquid-proof barrier. Ideal for bed-wetting problems, it absorbs fluid quickly from the surface and protects it from staining

**Quilted Fabric** -- double-faced, pre-quilted fabric has a layer of batting between two layers of fabric with a quilted pattern; commonly used for quilts & quilted bedding, table runners, handbags

**Quilter's Flannel** -- heavier weight flannel that is used in quilting; specifically to back quilts

**Rib Knit** -- term for knit fabric with vertical rows that intermesh alternatively on the front & back of fabric; known for shape retention & stretchability

**Ripstop** -- 100% nylon utility fabric is strong, tear & abrasion resistant; often used for outdoor flags, banners, backpacks, duffel bags, camping tents

**Sailcloth** -- unique canvas fabric that can be woven from a variety of natural or synthetic fibers to make a strong fabric for use in sail construction

**Sateen** -- soft, smooth, often cotton, with a subtle luster; commonly used for draperies & upholstery

**Satin** -- lustrous, glossy surface; drapability depends on fiber content; silk & rayon satins are best for apparel

**Seersucker** -- light cotton fabric with alternating smooth & puckered striped or checkered designs; needs no ironing, commonly used for summer clothes

**Shantung** -- silk fabric, traditionally from the Shandong province, similar to Dupioni; often used for bridal gowns

**Shirting** -- fine cotton used to make shirts, typically dress & button-down work shirts; can be poplin, broadcloth, twill, chambray, denim, oxford, linen

**Silk** -- strong, lustrous fiber made from processing the cocoons of silkworm larvae; typically used in apparel fabrics

**Silvertex** -- 100% cotton; used for polishing silver

**Speaker Cloth** -- lightweight black fabric that allows sound to pass through, but keeps dust and contaminants from settling on the speaker's woofer

**Suede** -- leather with the flesh side rubbed to create a velvety nap

**Suiting** -- fabric used for the construction & tailoring of suits, trousers, jackets & skirts

**Taffeta** -- rich, crisp, ribbed fabric; commonly used for formalwear

**Terry Cloth** -- fabric with uncut loops on both sides that absorbs water effectively; typically used for towels

**Thermal Knit** -- waffle- or honeycomb-textured weave traps warm air between the yarns, making it an effective insulator

**Ticking** -- a very strong, striped twill; often used for work wear, such as overalls; most typically used to cover pillows, mattresses & box springs

**Tulle** -- light net material, typically used for delicate clothing such as veils and wedding/evening dresses

**Twill** -- twill refers to both a weave of parallel, diagonal ridges & a fabric recognizable by that weave; sturdy construction makes it effective for upholstery & work clothing, such as denim

**Upholstery** -- a range of fabrics of various weights used for home décor, typically built for heavy wear & long use

**Utility** -- general term used for fabrics built for heavy-duty use; performance fabrics, vinyl, burlap, duck canvas, ripstop, etc.

**Velour** -- velvet-like knit fabric with a short pile & no luster; used in apparel, home décor, car manufacturing, as seat covers

**Velvet** -- soft, smooth, luxurious woven fabric with a deep luster & a thick, short pile; often used in high-end apparel, upholstery & drapes

**Velveteen** -- made to resemble velvet, this is a stiffer cotton woven fabric without velvet's luster or fine drape

**Voile** -- lightly crisp, semi-sheer, smooth woven fabric; used for clothing, curtains, soft furnishings

# Fabric Types & Their Usage

FABRIC TYPE	APPAREL	HOME DÉCOR	QUILT	CRAFT	UTILITY	NO-SEW
ANTI-PILL FLEECE	X	X		X		X
BATIK	X		X			
BATISTE	X	X				
BATTING			X	X	X	
BLACKOUT		X			X	
BOTTOM WEIGHT	X					
BROADCLOTH	X			X		
BROCADE & SARI	X	X				
BUCKRAM	X			X	X	
BUNTING		X		X		
BURLAP				X	X	
CALICO	X		X	X		
CANVAS		X		X	X	
CARGO NETTING					X	
CHALKBOARD				X	X	X
CHALLIS	X					
CHAMBRAY	X					
CHANTILLY LACE	X					
CHARMEUSE	X					
CHENILLE	X	X		X		
CHEESECLOTH				X	X	
CHIFFON	X					
CHINTZ		X				
CORDUROY	X	X				
CORK				X	X	

FABRIC TYPE	APPAREL	HOME DÉCOR	QUILT	CRAFT	UTILITY	NO-SEW
COSPLAY	X					
COTTON	X	X	X	X	X	
CREPE	X					
CRINOLINE	X					
DAMASK		X				
DENIM	X	X		X		
DIAPER CLOTH				X	X	
DOUBLE CLOTH	X	X				
DRILL (CHINO)	X				X	
DUCK	X	X			X	
DUPIONI	X	X				
EMBROIDERY				X		
EYELET	X					
FABRIC QUARTERS			X	X		
FAUX OR FAKE FUR	X	X		X		
FAUX OR FAKE LEATHER	X	X		X		
FELT				X		X
FLANNEL	X	X		X		
FLANNEL BACK SATIN		X		X		
FLANNEL SHIRTINGS	X					
FLEECE	X	X				X
FRENCH TERRY	X					
FUR	X	X		X		
GABARDINE	X					
GAUZE	X			X		
GINGHAM	X					

FABRIC TYPE	APPAREL	HOME DÉCOR	QUILT	CRAFT	UTILITY	NO-SEW
GRIP STOP					X	
HERRINGBONE	X					
HOUNDSTOOTH	X					
INSUL-BRIGHT					X	
INTERFACING	X	X	X	X	X	
INTERLOCK KNIT	X					
IRONING BOARD COVER				X	X	
JACQUARD	X					
JERSEY KNIT	X					
JUTE		X		X	X	
KNIT	X					
LACE	X	X				
LAMÉ	X					
LAWN	X					
LINEN	X					
MADRAS	X					
MESH	X			X	X	
MICRO-FLEECE	X	X				
MINKY		X		X		
MOISTURE-WICKING	X					
MOLESKIN	X					
MONK'S CLOTH		X			X	
MUSLIN	X		X	X	X	
MOSQUITO NETTING					X	
NYLON					X	
OIL CLOTH	X			X	X	

<b>FABRIC TYPE</b>	<b>APPAREL</b>	<b>HOME DÉCOR</b>	<b>QUILT</b>	<b>CRAFT</b>	<b>UTILITY</b>	<b>NO-SEW</b>
<b>ORGANDY</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>ORGANZA</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>OSNABURG</b>					<b>X</b>	
<b>PANNÉ VELVET</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				
<b>PET/MESH SCREENING</b>					<b>X</b>	
<b>PLISSE</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>POLYCOTTON</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>POLYESTER</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>POPLIN</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>PROTECTIVE FLANNEL</b>					<b>X</b>	
<b>QUILTED FABRIC</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>QUILTER'S FLANNEL</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>			
<b>RIB KNIT</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>RIPSTOP</b>	<b>X</b>				<b>X</b>	
<b>SAILCLOTH</b>					<b>X</b>	
<b>SATEEN</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SATIN</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SEERSUCKER</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SHANTUNG</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SHIRTING</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SILK</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SILVERTEX</b>		<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	
<b>SPANDEX</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>SPEAKER CLOTH</b>					<b>X</b>	

<b>FABRIC TYPE</b>	<b>APPAREL</b>	<b>HOME DÉCOR</b>	<b>QUILT</b>	<b>CRAFT</b>	<b>UTILITY</b>	<b>NO-SEW</b>
<b>SUEDE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>SUITING</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>TAFFETA</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>TERRY CLOTH</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		
<b>THERMAL KNIT</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>TICKING</b>		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>TULLE</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>TWILL</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>UPHOLSTERY</b>		<b>X</b>				
<b>UTILITY</b>					<b>X</b>	
<b>VELOUR</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				
<b>VELVET</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				
<b>VELVETEEN</b>	<b>X</b>					
<b>VOILE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>				

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*show us what you made*

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