MAXWELL FABRICS & TELAFINA
TOLL FREE TEL 1 800 663 1159
TOLL FREE FAX 1 800 663 6744
maxwellfabrics.com

COATED FABRICS REFERENCE GUIDE

TYPES OF FAUX LEATHER/COATED FABRICS

POLYVINYLCHLORIDE (PVC) – Flexible plastic polymer film layered on a textile backing.
POLYURETHANE (PU) – A composite material made of one of more layers of polymer resins laminated to a textile backing. Three basic types of polymer resins can be used to create PU; cost of the finished material is directly related to the quality and type of resin used.

- Polycarbonate – look for this very durable resin (either 100% polycarbonate or a polycarbonate top layer) for high-traffic public space applications.
- Polyether
- Polyester

SILICONE – An organic polymer applied to a textile backing. Silicone has excellent hydrolytic stability and can be added as a topcoat to PU constructions (silicone hybrid) or in standalone 100% silicone constructions, often for healthcare settings.

COATED FABRIC TERMINOLOGY

Hydrolysis resistance – Applicable to PU only; exposure to moisture, humidity and heat can degrade a PU over time. Resistance to hydrolysis is measured is weeks; a minimum of 5 weeks hydrolysis using the ISO 1419 "Jungle" test.
Delamination – Peeling of a PU layer from its textile backing; delamination occurs due to exposure to humidity, heat and harsh cleaners. Scratches and breaks in the top layer of PU film can allow the penetration of moisture and chemical cleaners into the composite causing peeling.
Writer's Block/Sta-Kleen/Graffiti-Free – proprietary branded names for repel & release stain resistant treatment that resists denim dye transfer & ink marks.

OVERVIEW

	PVC	**PU**	**SILICONE**
Hydrolytic stability	Excellent – not subject to hydrolysis testing	Variable depending on composition – look for a polycarbonate resin and/or silicone topcoat. Look for minimum 5 weeks hydrolysis (ISO 1419 Jungle Test)	Excellent – not subject to hydrolysis testing
Resistant to cleaners	Yes, with constructions using high quality resins	Yes, with constructions using high quality resins and performance topcoat	Yes
Other features	Inherent strength; cost-oriented	Excellent stretch; supple hand; temperature dispersal	Excellent colorfastness to light; 100% silicone construction biocompatible for use in healthcare settings

MAXWELL FABRICS & TELAFINA
TOLL FREE TEL 1 800 663 1159
TOLL FREE FAX 1 800 663 6744
maxwellfabrics.com

CLEANABILITY

For regular cleaning of dirt and grime as well as for maintenance, it is recommended to simply clean the soiled area with mild soap and water, then rinse with fresh water and wipe dry with a clean cloth. Do not use a hair dryer or heat gun to dry coated fabrics after cleaning as it can damage and/or melt faux leather.

For soiling beyond regular grime and/or disinfection in public space applications, visit our Resources page for specific cleaning instructions by pattern and stain type. The resistance of coated fabrics to various cleaners is dependent on construction. It is recommended to test any cleaning agent in a hidden part of the furniture before using. As no coated fabric is completely impervious to the repeated use of chemical cleaners and disinfectants, prolonged use can cause a change in the surface texture of coated fabrics including cracking, peeling, discoloration and dulling of glossy finishes. It is imperative to use a fresh water rinse and wipe on coated fabric after any cleaning agent is used.

The use of commercial vinyl conditioners and protectants can reduce the performance and lifespan of coated fabrics and is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPHOLSTERING WITH COATED FABRICS

Upholstery nails/tacks are recommended as glue may react negatively with the chemicals in coated fabrics.

Faux leathers have a tendency to wrinkle, pucker, or sag when upholstering long pieces such as benches or sectionals. To help prevent this, tufting or seaming is recommended.

Avoid placing heavy and/or sharp object on the surface of faux leathers for extended periods as this can create pressure marks, dents and creases.

Polyurethane-specific recommendations:

Avoid applications where the face of the coated textile comes in contact with itself. Face-to-face PU contact may result in peeling of the topcoat. Polyurethane is not recommended for use on welt cord/piping.

Avoid extreme folding or stretching of PU around tight/sharp corners without foam backing as this will put excessive stress on the PU topcoat and create a potential wear point.

PUs typically stretch more than PVCs therefore it is recommended to: reduce the sewing pattern to allow for stretch and/or cut the foam 1” oversize in length and breadth; do not railroad the PU; use a high quality, high density foam; wrap the foam to reduce friction between the foam and the PU and prevent creasing and bunching; provide for breathing holes in the construction to allow faster foam recovery.

MAXWELL FABRICS & TELAFINA
TOLL FREE TEL 1 800 663 1159
TOLL FREE FAX 1 800 663 6744
maxwellfabrics.com

Browse coated fabrics by type:

POLYVINYLCHLORIDE (PVC)
EASY RIDER III – PATTERN LUXOR
EASY RIDER IV
EASY RIDER V
EASY RIDER VI

POLYURETHANE (PU)
EASY RIDER VII

SILICONE
FLEXA