

Healthcare Fabrics



The last few years have seen an increase in the availability of smart and innovative high performance upholstery fabrics which have transformed both healthcare environments and the leisure industry. Whilst traditional vinyl fabrics are still available and ideal in many environments, they have been joined by many antibacterial and waterproof, stain resistant, fire retardant fabrics which look good and perform well.

The purpose of this guide is to identify some of the choices available to you when choosing fabric for your chairs and seating. As different fabrics will be appropriate in different environments you should bear in mind the cleaning regime it will undergo and refer to the manufacturer's instructions for more details. (See links overleaf)

The following fabrics are suitable for doctor's surgeries, hospitals, waiting areas, clinics, nursing and care homes and anywhere requiring a highly cleanable and resistant fabric. They are all available on our made to order chairs allowing you to coordinate easy chairs, office chairs and visitor chairs if required for a coordinated look.

Fabrics and Vinyl

The following is not an exhaustive list of the available fabrics but a selection of the most popular. If you are trying to match an existing fabric on some new furniture please contact us to see if that is possible. Fabric cards are available if required.

The details below are subject to changes by the manufacturers and if you have particular requirements you should check the latest fabric card or the manufacturer's website for the latest information.

Fabric

Brand Name	Composition	Strength	Flammability	Attributes
Intervene Plain & Pattern (Camira Fabrics)	100% recycled polyester	100,000 rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Waterproof Urine proof Stain repellent Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Breathable Not recommended for clinical areas with quick wipe clean programmes
Intervene Marl (Camira Fabrics)	84% recycled polyester/16% cationic polyester	50,000 rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Waterproof Urine proof Stain repellent Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Breathable Not recommended for clinical areas with quick wipe clean programmes
Intervene Texture (Camira Fabrics)	100% recycled polyester	100,000 rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Waterproof Urine proof Stain repellent Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Breathable Not recommended for clinical areas with quick wipe clean programmes
Agua Nova (Agua Fabrics)	100% polyester	80,000+ rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Waterproof Urea resistant Stain repellent Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Breathable
Agua Classic (Agua Fabrics)	100% polyester	100,000+ rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Waterproof Urea resistant Stain repellent Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Breathable

Vinyl

Brand	Composition	Strength	Flammability	Attributes
Virtual Plus (Camira Fabrics)	100% polyurethane	700,000 flexes	Crib5, medium hazard	Waterproof Spill & stain resistant Wipe clean Breathable Recommended for clinical areas with quick wipe clean programmes.
Chieftain Multistretch	100% PVC	100,000+ rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Anti-bacterial Counteracts C.Diff, MRSA and E-Coli Stain resistant Stretch fabric ideal for use with pressure relief seating
Just Colour (Trimproof Ltd)	100% PVC	100,000+ rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Contract vinyl suitable for infection control areas (NaDCC compatible) Hydrophobic
Chieftain Vinyl (Trimproof Ltd)	87% PVC/13% cotton	100,000 rubs (Martindale)	Crib5, medium hazard	Hydrophobic Stain resistant Urine resistant Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Ciba IRGAGUARD B 500 antimicrobial Resistant to mould and mildew development Ideal for high risk infection control areas
Ambla Vinyl (Ambla)	n/a	Conforms to BS5790 part 1: Type 2: Grade X: 1996 ISO7617-1: 1994E (using rub frequency of ½ cycle per second	Crib5, medium hazard	Hydrophobic Stain resistant Urine resistant Anti-bacterial Anti-fungal Actifresh antimicrobial NaDCC compatible

Manufacturer's Links:

Camira Fabrics – www.camirafabrics.com

Agua Fabrics - www.aguafabrics.com

Trimproof Fabrics – www.trimproof.com

Ambla Fabrics – www.ambla.com

Glossary

Composition: the proportion of natural or man-made fibres making up the fabric. Where vinyl contains natural fibre this tends to be in the backing

Strength: Tested to the industry standard Martindale Test the strength is measured in rubs. The higher the number of rubs, the stronger the fabric. Occasionally vinyl may have been tested to a different standard and be measured in flexes.

Flammability: Tested to industry standards all these fabrics tend to fall into the Medium Hazard category required for use in most public areas.

Attributes: fabrics and vinyl suitable for healthcare environments have inherent attributes introduced or created during the manufacturing process or as a result of their composition.

Waterproof – the fabric has been tested and is waterproof to a pressure greater than 1m or water under force of gravity.

Hydrophobic – refers to vinyl which, because of its composition, does not absorb water, retain dampness and can be wiped completely dry.

Breathable – moisture vapour permeable BS3546 for a higher comfort factor.

Anti-bacterial and Anti-fungal – treated with a product during manufacture which inhibits microbial growth. The treatment used differs between manufacturers but generally inhibits Staph Aureus, E-Coli, Salmonella, Aspergillus Niger, Staphylococcus Aureus, Cladosporium Herbarism and MRSA. (See fabric cards for details).

Stain Retardency – treated during manufacture, this gives a longer time for you to treat the stain than on an untreated fabric. (It doesn't mean the fabric will not stain!)

