

TAPESTRY

WHAT IS A TAPESTRY?

In the days of hand-woven fabrics, the word tapestry referred to a fabric in which, the pattern was woven with discontinuous colored filling yarns. In current usage, tapestry more often refers to jacquard-woven warp brocades in which multicolored warp ends are carried on the back of the fabric. The fabric below is an example of a warp brocade comprised of 70% cotton and 30% polyester.



FIBER CONTENT

Tapestry fabrics may be made of virtually any fiber or combination of fibers, though cotton is most common. As always, the type of fiber or combination of fibers, though cotton is most common. As always, the type of fiber involved is one of the major considerations governing proper spot cleaning or general cleaning (e.g., acid-based products must be used with caution on the cotton and other cellulosic fibers because of the potential for long-term damage).

COLORFASTNESS

Any fabric with colored "floating" yarns, which run underneath the face, should automatically trigger a yellow flag (caution)! Though most of these fabrics are likely to be colorfast, PRE-TESTING is essential. Bleeding dyes are occasionally found and can be aggravated especially when alkaline Detergents, or spot cleaners are applied. Once dye migration has occurred, it can be extremely difficult to correct. Remember to test for slow bleeders (see TT-10).

SOIL HIDING

In general, tapestry fabrics are woven using darker, richer colors. These colors, along with the patterned surface, mean that most tapestry fabrics offer above average soil-hiding characteristics.

Cleaning is necessary on these fabrics often before there is any visible soil. This limits the need for aggressive chemistries that can cause problems during cleaning.

DURABILITY

Like many heavy, tightly woven materials, tapestry fabrics are relatively durable and can easily handle moderate daily use in seating situations.

The fiber content must also be considered in determining the durability of a fabric. The fabric shown here could experience pilling due to the presence of the polyester that is known for exhibiting pilling problems.

CLIENT CARE

Vacuuming and damp dusting should be performed on a regular basis. This is due to the soil hiding ability of the fabric itself as discussed earlier.

Liquid spills should be blotted as soon as possible to limit any migration of the dark colors so often used in tapestries. Cushions should be turned on a regular basis so that they will wear evenly. This will also help to even out fading that may occur.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

These fabrics will last many years when cared for properly. Fiber-Seal solvent-based fabric protectors will limit the chances of dye migration while increasing the useful life of the fabric.

AS WITH ALL FABRICS AND FINISHES, ALWAYS TEST CHEMICALS AND/OR PROCEDURES FIRST IN AN INCONSPICUOUS AREA OF THE FABRIC.