

Colouration & Finishing for Designers & Retailers

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What is colouration & finishing?

A set of processes designed to impart a specific look, feel and performance to fabric.

What colouration & finishing methods suit my needs?

What is the end product? *Ladies wear, mens wear, school wear, corporate wear, knitwear, furnishing, suiting, safety wear, upholstery, mix & match separates, protective wear, blankets, etc.*

What are the performance needs: *washable, dry clean only, next to skin, drape, lightweight, hard wearing, low pill, soil repellent, warmth, fire resistant, soft handle, shower proof, stretch, etc.*

Colouration & Finishing options

- Dyeing - Top dye, Yarn dye, Piece dye
- Physical finishing – many processes
- Chemical finishing – many chemicals

Colouration

- Top dye – normally done with reactive dyes
- Yarn dye – done with either reactive or levelling dyes
- Piece dye – must be done with levelling dyes
- Laboratory dyeing & colour matching

Top Dyeing

- PROS – highest fastness , best colour continuity ,
- CONS – earliest stage of production , suits large runs

Yarn Dyeing

- PROS – small runs , suits checks & patterns
- CONS – small runs , lower fastness

Piece Dyeing

- PROS - last minute colouration .
- CONS - solid shades*, lowest fastness.

Laboratory Dyeing and Shade Matching

- A lab dyeing takes as long as bulk dyeing
- 3 facts of wool dyeing and colour matching
- Metamerism and Pantones and other fibres
- Commercial colour measurement

Physical Finishing

WET FINISHING

Solvent Scouring
Open Width Scouring
Rope Scouring
Milling

DRY FINISHING

Cropping
Singeing
Pressing
Chemical setting
Decatising
Pressure decatising
Raising

Chemical Finishing

- Hydrophobic – Teflon, Scotchguard, Wax, lamination
- Hydrophilic – chemicals with water absorbent properties
- Antimicrobial – Sanitize, Ultrafresh, silver
- Micro-encapsulation – aromas, medicines
- Softeners – micro, nano, silicones
- Mothproof – substantive, non-durable
- Crease “resistant” – resins, design
- Stretch – chemicals, design
- Fire retardant – PFZ, Zirpro, Halogen compounds
- Machine washable – top treatment, piece treatment
- Environmentally friendly – “green” dyes & chemicals
- Etc.

Summary

Colouration and finishing decisions are complex and complicated. They are based on a complex range of handle, appearance and performance needs, specified by both the designer and retailer, but ultimately determined by the expectations of the end user.