

# Technical Tuesday

REF:TT/ Mar 2013/ WK 4

## Selection of Softeners for Textile Softening

### What is Fabric Softeners?

- A Softener is a chemical that alters the fabric hand making it more pleasing to the touch.
- The more pleasing feel is a combination of a smooth sensation, characteristic of silk, and of the material being less stiff.
- The softened fabric is fluffier and has better drape In addition to aesthetics (drape and silkiness), softeners improve abrasion resistance, increase tearing strength, reduces sewing thread breakage and reduce needle cutting when the garment is sewn.

### For Reducing the COF:

- Softeners act as fiber lubricants and reduce the coefficient of friction between Fibers, yarns, and between a fabric.
- Sewing problems are caused by the friction of a needle rapidly moving through the fabric.
- Friction will cause the needle to become hot leads to yarn breakage.
- So we should select the softener will reduce needle heat buildup, provide a steady source of needle lubricant and thus reduce thread breakage for yarn finishing.

### For getting the Silky, bouncy, and Drape hand feel:

- The lower viscosity silicones are the ones that impart the soft silky feel and improve drape.
- The Higher viscosity silicones are the ones that impart bouncy feel.

*A knowledge sharing initiative of Resil Chemicals.  
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## Other Points to be Consider before selecting softeners:

- The softener should not give odour to the fabric after finishing.
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- The softener should be selected based on acceptable shade change to the fabric.
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- The softeners should not affect the fastness properties of the dyed material.
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- The softener should not form any stain on the fabric after finishing.
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- The softener should be shear stable, while finishing in high liquor flow processing machineries.
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- The Softener should be OBA stable, while finishing the full white textiles.
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- The softener should be dye stable, while using the dyed goods.

## Some Resil Range of Products for Softening\*

### Silky Feel:

- Ultrafab UHF
- Resil AS1
- Ultrafab XP80, Etc...

### Yarn Lubricant :

Resil Yarn X HWC  
Resil Yarn X 125  
Ultrafab CSLF Etc...

### Drape Feel

- Ultrafab LAD
- Resil DPT 171 LF, Etc...

### Bouncy/Bulky Feel:

- Innocelle CHiQ
- Innocelle MAiQ
- Ultrafab C3S, Etc...

**\*Please contact us for more details of Resil Products.**

**“Have a happy week ahead”**

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