



POLYESTER AND ITS BLENDS – PART IX

REF: TT/ SEPTEMBER 2020 / WK 1

Blended Fabrics

Two or more fibers are spun together to produce yarns with better performance. In blended fabrics, the property of one fiber with poor performance quality is compensated by the better property of the other fiber. For instance, when polyester fiber is blended with cotton, the resultant fabric has moderate absorbency which is very poor in case of virgin polyester.

Main reasons of blending are:

- **To improve the hand and appearance of the fabrics** – Polyesters are blended with wool fibers to produce the required hand and appearance for suiting materials. Similarly with viscose fibers, the blended fabric improves its luster, warmth and enhances appearance.
- **To improve the strength of the fabric** – Cotton is blended with polyester fiber to improve the strength of 100% cotton. Polyester/cotton blended fabrics are more durable than pure cotton fabric.
- **To reduce the cost** - This is one of the important reasons for blending of fibers. The cost of a very expensive fabric can often be reduced by blending with another economical fiber. For example, expensive wool is blended with economical polyester to reduce the cost.
- **To produce cross-dyed effects** - Fibers with different dye affinities are blended together and dyed. This way the fabric produces cross dyes effects.
- **To improve the spinning efficiency** - The spinning efficiency of polyester is improved by blending with cotton to produce spun yarns.

Various Polyester Blends

The most popular polyester blends are Poly/Cotton, Poly/Wool, Poly /Viscose. Besides these other functional and eco-friendly blends are also available in the market. Various effects and combinations of properties are produced from these blends depending on the fibers used and the percentage of these fibers used in each blend.

- **Poly/Cotton** – Polyester when blended with cotton produces fabrics with good strength, wrinkle resistance, shape retention, better absorbency and heat conduction. Fabrics of various blend ratios



are available commercially. A blend of 65% polyester and 35% cotton is the most common Poly/Cotton Blend. This produces fabrics for daily wear. The other blend ratios are 67/33, 70/30, 50/50, 45/55, 52/48, 80/20 polyester and cotton respectively is also available.

- **Poly/Wool** - Polyester imparts excellent wrinkle resistance, hence compensates with the poor crease resistant property of wool fibers. This results into blended fabric with better shape retention characteristics. Wool provides warmth, resiliency and absorbency depending to the blended fabric. Blends of polyester and wool are available in the ratio of 65/35, 60/40, 50/50 etc.
- **Poly/Viscose** - The blend of polyester with viscose imparts durability, resiliency and shape retention. The wet strength of the resultant fabric is also improved. Viscose provides absorbency and soft hand to the fabric. Common blends of polyester/viscose are 65/35, 55/45 etc.
- **Poly/Bamboo** – Blends with bamboo fibers work on characteristics of antibacterial, anti-allergic, protection against the harmful UV rays and other valuable properties.

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| <p>Good to note</p> <p>- Blending of recycled polyester with organic cotton and Bamboo fiber is getting popular as a sustainable fiber.</p> <p>- Polyester/ Elastane blend is used in active wear.</p> <p>- Polyester/Metallic yarn blends are popular in fashion garments.</p> |
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.....To be continued.....

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| UNSCRAMBLE THE JUMBLE WORDS |
| LENDB |
| HAEPS ERTENIONT |
| COSESIV |
| OOBAMB |

Last week`s Answers: 1) ACID LIBERATING 2) CELLULOSE GUM 3) ANTI MIGRATING AGENT 4) TRANSFER

Wishing you a great week ahead!

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