

# Upholstery Fabric Selection Guide



For hospitality, healthcare & private club environments

Selecting the right upholstery fabric for a commercial environment involves more than aesthetics. Performance ratings, cleanability, and compliance requirements all play a role. This guide covers the key specifications your workroom and procurement team need to make informed decisions.

## 1. Performance Ratings

TEST	WHAT IT MEASURES	MINIMUM FOR HOSPITALITY	RECOMMENDED FOR HEALTHCARE
Wyzenbeek (ACT)	Abrasion resistance — a wire mesh rubs the fabric back and forth	30,000 double rubs	50,000+ double rubs
Martindale (EU standard)	Similar to Wyzenbeek; more common on European-sourced fabrics	25,000 cycles	40,000+ cycles
Pilling Resistance	Surface fiber balling under friction	Grade 3–4 minimum	Grade 4–5
Tensile Strength	Resistance to tearing under load	50 lbs warp / weft	75 lbs warp / weft

## 2. Cleanability & Infection Control

For nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and high-turnover hotel rooms, cleanability is often the deciding factor. Look for fabrics that carry the following ratings or properties:

DESIGNATION	WHAT IT MEANS	BEST FOR
Bleach-Cleanable	Can withstand diluted bleach solution without color loss or degradation	Healthcare, high-touch hospitality
Antimicrobial	Fabric treated to inhibit bacterial and microbial growth	Nursing homes, rehab facilities
Solution-Dyed	Color is embedded in the fiber, not surface-applied — superior fade and stain resistance	All commercial environments
Crypton / Nanotex	Performance finish that repels liquids and stains at the fiber level	Healthcare, family hotels
Class 1 Fire Rating (NFPA 701)	Required for most commercial upholstery applications in the US	All commercial — mandatory

## 3. Common Fabric Categories & Trade-offs

FABRIC	FEEL & LOOK	DURABILITY	CLEANABILITY	BEST USE
Velvet	Luxurious, soft	Moderate	Moderate	Boutique hotels, lounges
Bouclé	Textured, warm	Moderate	Low–Moderate	Residential-style hospitality
Performance Velvet	Soft, refined	High	High	All commercial settings

Faux Leather / Vinyl	Sleek, modern	Very High	Very High	Healthcare, dining, bars
Woven / Jacquard	Structured, classic	High	Moderate	Traditional hotels, clubs
Linen Blend	Natural, casual	Low–Moderate	Low	Residential, boutique only
Crypton / Performance	Varies	Very High	Very High	Healthcare, family hotels

#### 4. COM — Customer's Own Material

JO-VIN accepts COM (Customer's Own Material) on all upholstery projects. If your designer or client has specified a fabric not in our standard offering, simply ship the material to our workroom and we handle the rest. When submitting COM, please confirm the following with your fabric supplier:

<b>Fabric width</b>	54" is standard for upholstery. Narrower widths require more yardage.
<b>Pattern repeat</b>	Horizontal and vertical repeat measurements are needed to calculate accurate yardage.
<b>Railroading</b>	Indicate whether the fabric can be railroaded (run horizontally) to minimize seams on large pieces.
<b>Fire certification</b>	Confirm the fabric meets NFPA 701 or provide a certificate of compliance.
<b>Recommended attachment</b>	Staple, glue, or tack — some performance fabrics have specific requirements.