

# Choosing Woven Fabrics For Quilts + Sewing Projects

YOUR QUICK GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING WEAVE, WEIGHT, DRAPE & WHERE TO USE THEM

## Fabric Weights

Weight	GSM/OZ	Feel	Best Uses
Ultra Lightweight	Under 100 gsm Under 3 oz/yd <sup>2</sup>	Very soft + light	Sheer garments
Lightweight	100-170 gsm -3-5 oz/yd <sup>2</sup>	Soft + drapery	Blouses, quilts + drapery garments
Midweight	170-300 gsm -5-9 oz/yd <sup>2</sup>	Balanced body	Quilts, bags, tops, + light pants
Heavyweight	300-400 gsm -9-12+ oz/yd <sup>2</sup>	Firm + structured	Upholstry, workwear, +totes

## KEY FACTORS WHEN CHOOSING A WOVEN

### Weight

Too light -> floppy or stretched blocks

Too heavy -> bulky seams

Sweet spot for quilts -> 3.5-7 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>

### Fiber Content

Cotton: easy to sew, quilt friendly

Linen: beautiful texture, slight slub

Silk: elegant, but slippery

Blends: add drape, stretch, softness

## COMMON WOVEN FABRIC TYPES + WHEN TO USE THEM

FABRIC	CATEGORY	BEST PROJECTS
Quilter's Cotton (high quality)	Light to Midweight	Classic quilts
Textural Wovens	Light to Midweight	Cozy quilts, texture play
Canvas/Duck Cloth	Heavyweight	Bags, totes, upholstery
Chambray	Light to Midweight	Apparel, quilts
Twill	Light to Heavyweight	Apparel, structured bags
Denim	Midweight to Heavyweight	Apparel, workwear, heavy bags
Silk/Silk Blends	Lightweight	Garments, delicate accents
Rayon/Tencel	Lightweight	Drapery apparel

## Pre-washing Wovens

### Should You?

- Yes - Removes shrinkage + dye
- No - preserves crispness for precision piecing

### How To Prevent Fraying

- Zigzag stitch edges
- Serger finish
- Pre-wash in mesh laundry bag

## Sewing + Quilting Tips

- Light-Midweight wovens pair beautifully with quilting cottons
- Use starch to smooth + stabilize fabric before cutting
- Press seams open for flatter blocks
- Use longer quilting pins for textured wovens