



**MARINE
FABRICATORS**
ASSOCIATION

Roadshow

Become a

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Questions?

Christine Gerard

Member Programs Supervisor

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- **Education**

- Workshops
- Conference
- Roadshow
- Webinars/Podcasts

- **Networking**

- Marine Fabricators Conference
 - Jan. 8-10, 2026—Savannah, GA
 - Jan. 7-9, 2027—Nashville, TN
 - Enjoy the Costume Party and more!
- MFA Regional Workshops

- **Time Standards Manual App**

- Members Only
- Online

- **Don't Miss the Boat Poster**

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Marine Fabric Overview

Ron Paratore
Trivantage, LLC

Types of fabrics

- Cotton
- Polyester
- Vinyl
- Acrylic

Cotton

Marine Cotton

- Army Duck
 - Variety of finishes available
 - Boat shrunk
 - Durafin/wax
 - Flame retardant
 - Napback/Flannel
 - Mid weight, usually around 10 oz/sy
 - Limited color range
 - Mineral dye process
 - Varying widths

Cotton

- Pros
 - Strong initial strength
 - Coating options to provide water repellency / Mildew resistance
 - Soft liners to protect delicate surfaces
 - Classic
 - Cost effective

Cotton

- Pros
 - Strong initial strength
 - Coating options to provide water repellency / Mildew resistance
 - Soft liners to protect delicate surfaces
 - Classic
 - Cost effective
- Cons
 - Low UV resistance
 - Mildew prone
 - Heavy
 - Limited colors / options
 - Narrow widths
 - Shrinkage

Cotton

- Best Uses
 - Winter covers



Cotton

- Best Uses
 - Winter covers
 - Dust Covers
 - Delicate Surface Covers



Cotton

- Best Uses
 - Winter covers
 - Dust Covers
 - Delicate Surface Covers
 - Period accurate covers



Polyester

- Coated Polyester
 - Single or double coated
 - Acrylic coating
 - Vinyl coating
- Solution Dyed Polyester
 - Durable Water Repellent (DWR) finish

Polyester

- Pros
 - Strong
 - Abrasion resistant
 - Good UV resistance
 - Coatings to increase durability / water repellency
 - Wide color / weight options
 - Soft liners for delicate surfaces
 - Mid price range

Polyester

- Cons
 - Color transfer
 - Coating breakdown
 - UV fade / degradation
 - Stiff in cold climate
 - Low/no breathability in coated products

Polyester

Best Uses

- Storage covers
- Tops / Shade Flys
- Utility covers



Vinyl Fabrics

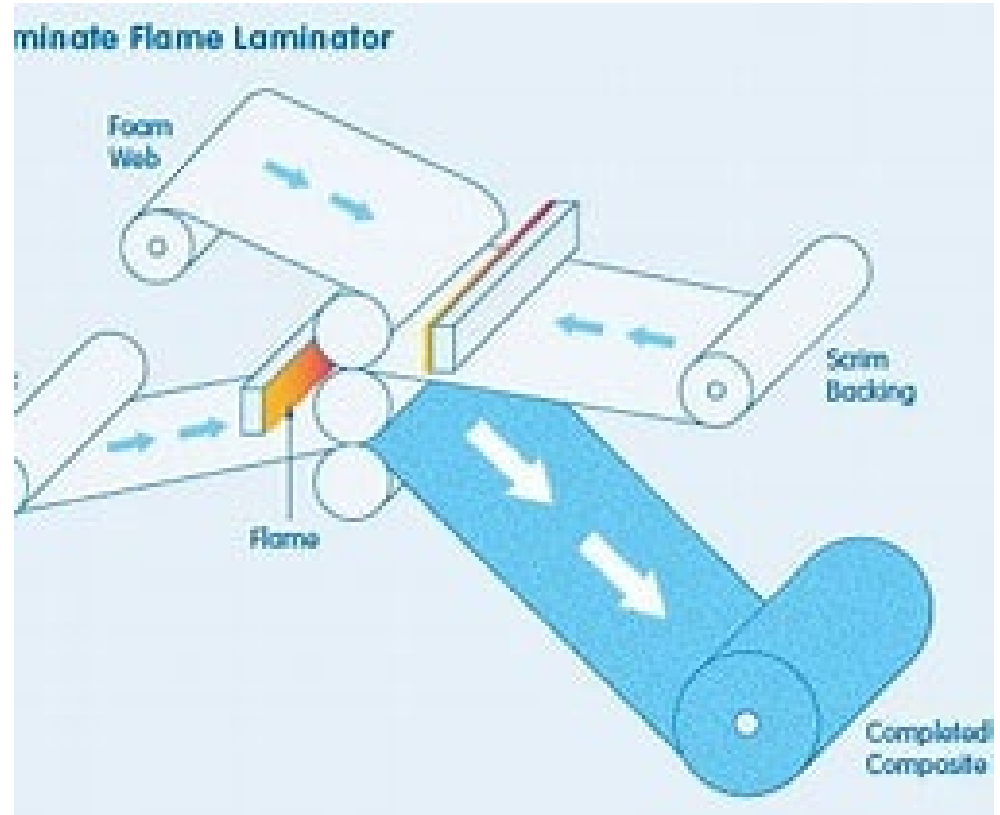
Laminated

Coated

Aka PVC

Laminated Vinyl

- Three layers of fabric
 - Film (outside layers)
 - Scrim (inside layer)
- Adhesive
- Heat
- Pressure



Laminated Vinyl

Pros

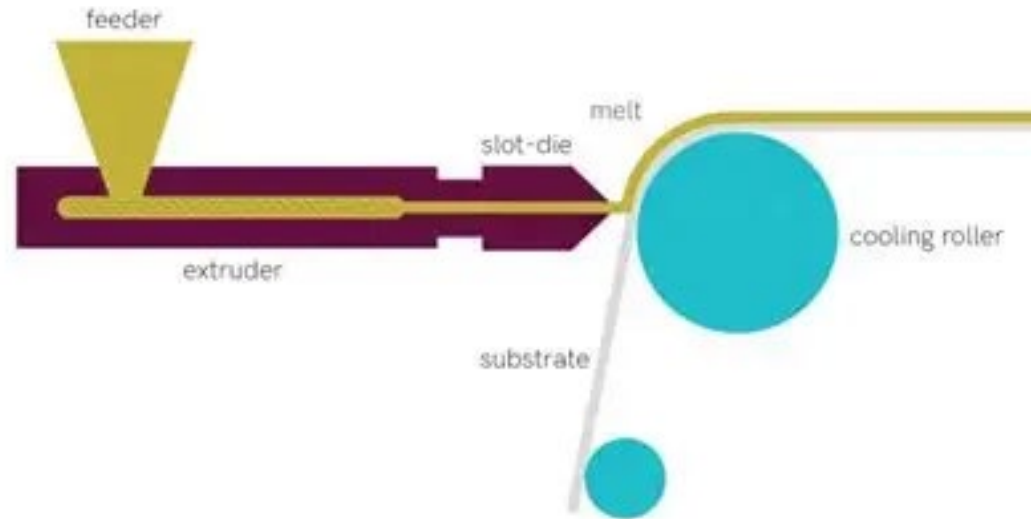
- Waterproof
- Wide color / width / weight options, some duplex
- Durable
- High UV resistance
- Mold / mildew resistance
- Cleanability
- Dimensional stability

Cons

- Not Breathable
- Stiffness in cold weather / old age
- Higher Cost
- Pin holes

Coated Vinyl

- Starts with a woven base fabric
 - Usually polyester
 - Natural color
- Liquid vinyl
 - Color
 - Mildew inhibitors
 - Other properties
- Knife coating
- Rollers for finish
- Single/double sided



Coated Vinyl

- Pros
 - Waterproof
 - Wide color / width / weight options
 - Durable
 - High UV resistance
 - Mold / mildew resistance
 - Cleanability
 - Dimensional stability
 - Can be sewn or welded for watertight seams
 - Not prone to pin-holing
- Cons
 - Not Breathable
 - Stiffness in cold weather / old age
 - Higher Cost

Vinyl Fabrics – Best Uses

Storage Covers



Tops/Enclosures/Trim



Utility Covers



Curtains/Room Enclosures



Solution Dyed Acrylic

- Types of Acrylic
 - Standard / woven
 - Multiple colors and widths
 - Hybrid / coated / laminated
 - Added water repellency
 - Improved dimensional stability

Solution Dyed Acrylic

- Pros

- Colorfast
- High UV durability
- Breathable
- Wide Color pallet
- Mildew resistance
- Cleanability
- Solution Dyed
- Multiple widths and finishes

- Cons

- Not waterproof
- Soiling on light colors
- Price
- Abrasion resistance



Solution Dyed Acrylic

Best Uses

- Storage Covers
- Tops





Thank You



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Traditional Patterning

Kyle Van Damme, MFC
Marine Tops

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Building a U-Zip

Jeff Newkirk, MFC
Precision Custom Canvas