

**ABRASION RESISTANCE-** Wearability of a vinyl coated fabric (or any product) to resist surface damage from rubbing or chafing.

**ADHEASION-** Bonding strength between the backing and the vinyl surface.

**BACKING-** Any product used as a carrier to support a vinyl surface adding overall product strength, including fabric, non-woven, paper, etc.

**CALENDER-** Dry compound manufacturing method used to apply a controlled coating of vinyl film so as to produce a film. Compound is heated and drawn through a series of high temperature polished rolls to combine all chemicals into the necessary film thickness. It can then be laminated to any backing to remain as a film, if desired.

**CAST COATING-** Liquid (plasticol) manufacturing process for expanded or non-expanded vinyls using casting release paper to carry product during production process. Cast coating manufacturing method allows for greater accuracy in total product quality vs. calendering vinyl production procedure.

**EXPANDED VINYL-** Vinyl coated construction consisting of three major parts- BACKING, FOAM (center section) and vinyl SKIN SURFACE. During production, heat is utilized to "cook" the vinyl making the middle foam layer "expand," thus creating the term "expanded" vinyl.

**FILLER-** Additive (calcium carbonate) generally used to increase the weight of a vinyl product in lieu of adding other raw materials. (Fillers are also referred to as LOADING AGENTS.)

**FILM-** Solid or flexible vinyl (of any thickness) without a backing.

**FLAT VINYL-** Another name for non-expanded vinyl.

**FOGGING-** Phenomenon created when a vinyl-coated fabric or film is subjected to high temperatures in confined areas. Result is plasticizer exudation (common to automobile interiors).

**GAUGE-** Total thickness of a vinyl product.

**GRAIN (EMBOSSING)-** Mechanically textured surface of vinyl.

**LAMINATED-** Bonding of film and fabric usually with heat and adhesive.

**MILDEW PROOF-** Treatments given to vinyl compound and/or a backing to retard the growth of a variety of fungi that may result in mildew growth.

**NON-EXPANDED VINYL-** Vinyl coated product manufactured without a foam layer between the skin surface and backing.

**PIGMENT-** Compound used to provide color.

**PLASTICIZER-** Additive used to make basic raw material, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), soft and flexible.

**PRINT-** Application of tinted inks used to change the surface appearance of a solid color. Prints are used to give vinyl fabrics a variety of surface looks including floral, leathers, etc.

**PVC-** Common name for polyvinyl chloride resin, the basic raw material in all vinyls.

**SLIP FINISH-** Same as top coat.

**SKIN THICKNESS-** Overall thickness of the wear layer surface (solid vinyl).

**STRIKE-THROUGH-** Manufacturing defect that allows texture from backing to show on surface area.

**SUBSTRATE-** Another name for backing.

**TEAR STRENGTH-** Ability of vinyl fabric to resist tearing. Measured horizontally and vertically on surface areas.

**TOPCOAT-** Thin layer of clear or tinted vinyl used on wear surface to protect total product from abrasion. Topcoat also provides desired degree of gloss.

**TOP SKIN-** The thin vinyl layer in an expanded product.

**UNSUPPORTED VINYL-** Any vinyl film or expanded produced without a backing.

**UV STABILIZED PIGMENTS-** Special pigments formulated to resist fading or color change resulting from long-term exposure to the sun (ultra-violet rays).