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

ADHESION- 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 hum 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 run (ultra-violet rays).