



Thanks so much for your inquiry into sun protective fabrics for clothing! I have enclosed some information about the fabrics, about breathable fabrics in general and a price list. All of the fabrics that I sell are breathable and carry a UPF rating. (Except for the mesh fabrics that are sold for venting.)

Swatches are \$2.00. If you are ordered swatches via the internet or phone, send \$\$ when you receive the swatches or with your first order. (Which ever is sooner, please).

If you belong to a chat group, health group or sewing group, please pass on the information about these fabrics and where to get them. Because of your help, I can keep the fabrics at a low price and provide personal service. Thanks so much, you make the bobbins go round, keep up the good work! ☺

If you have any questions you can reach me at the contacts listed below.

Thanks again for your inquiry!

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NEW AMMO IN THE WAR ON UVB AND UVA RAYS

Protection from UVB and UVA rays is a major priority in many of our lives. All types of skin cancer have doubled since 1980 and people who suffer from some auto immune system problems such as Lupus or Porphyria must also stay out of the sun. Even folks who take sun sensitive medications such as Ibuprofen, Retin-A as well as those who take certain drugs for hypertension or diuretics or some antibiotics should avoid sun exposure.

Working and playing in the sun makes it unavoidable for most of us to be exposed to these harmful rays. It's pretty obvious that we need to protect ourselves at every opportunity. Premature aging, immune system suppression and cancer are appearing more often than ever.

One way we have dealt with those harmful UVA and UVB rays is to use the "cover up" method. In the past the problem with the cover-up method has been the comfort as well as safety of the clothing that we wore. Those sheer comfortable cotton fabrics do not protect as well as we would like. A typical cotton T-shirt can allow 50% of harmful UV rays to penetrate to your skin. Add and other 10-20% of penetration if the shirt is wet from water or perspiration. Choosing a typical nylon fabric for protection was a hot and sticky prospect. Until now!!

Enter the latest in state of the art sun protection!

Ultraviolet protected fabric! Fabrics with a UPF rating!

What is a UPF rating?? UPF or Ultra Protection Factor is the same as SPF ratings for body creams. Fabrics that have passed independent laboratory testing in accordance with the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) receive a UPF rating. UPF ratings are as follows:

UPF rating: 15-24	blocks 93.3% - 95.8% of UV rays,
25-39	blocks 96.0% - 97.4% of UV rays
40-50	blocks 97.5% - 98.0% of UV rays

You will find a variety of UPF rated fabrics at Weather or Not Fabrics. Solarweave® and IMIX® cottons are offered. NASA chose Solarweave® fabric to make space suits for kids around the world with extreme allergies to UV light! IMIX makes children's cover-ups. Other fabrics offered by Weather or Not Fabrics are Supplex®, Coolmax® and various combinations of fabrics.

Every fabric offered by Weather or Not Fabrics has a UPF rating!!

ABOUT THE FABRICS

WHAT ARE "WICKING" /"BREATHABLE" FABRICS???

When clothing gets wet from perspiration it sticks to the skin and hinders the evaporation process. The evaporation process keeps our body temperature at its appropriate level to keep us cool in the summer and warm in the winter. In the summer months, keeping cool is pretty obvious, surprisingly, in the winter, the same process keeps us warm.

When we work or play outside in the cold our body temperature heats up causing us to sweat. The sweat soaks into our clothing causing them to stick to our skin hindering the evaporation process. The wet fabric lays on our skin keeping us cold even while we continue to work or play hard. Add rain or snow to this mix and we get into some real problems trying to keep warm and dry!!

Cottons, nylons and polyesters have always been notorious for hindering our evaporation process. While wool has been known to be warm when wet, it weighs a TON when in this state. But thanks to modern technology we have learned how to battle the elements in a comfortable and fashionable way by turning fabric breathability into an art.

The new fabrics have one basic character, Breathability! They have special weaves that give them the ability to let our cooling process happen by "wicking" the sweat away from our skin. There are lots of different ways that the manufacturers have applied this weave to the clothing industry. Supplex nylon has a special weave that lets the steam out while keeping the wind and even the rain out. Gortex and Ultrex products have developed a special coating to put on to fabrics to make them virtually waterproof while still being breathable. Polar products have developed a lofty fabric to make the clothing warm (remember air trapped in the weave make little heat pockets) and breathable. The hundreds of variations on all of these styles have made the world of outdoor clothing fun and exciting!!

Always keep in mind that the idea behind clothing is to be comfortable while we are working or

playing. These new products not only feel good but look great too!!

WHAT ARE COOLMAX® AND WICKAWAYS???

When your clothing gets wet and sticks to your skin it stops the evaporation process that keeps us cool in summer and warm in winter. Coolmax® was developed to keep an air space between you and your outer garments so that your body can perform its evaporation process. Coolmax®, a polyester, was originally designed to be worn under the hot uniforms of soldiers and police officers. You will find that it has many uses alone or in conjunction with other fabrics. Wickaways are the same type of fabric as Coolmax® but manufactured by a different company.

WHAT IS SUPPLEX®??

Supplex® is a nylon fabric that Dupont created to have all the good qualities of nylon (easy care, great color retention, little or no ironing, durability, softness, etc.) without the stickiness that nylon creates. Supplex is a high-wicking, highly breathable nylon that comes in many styles including wovens and knits and can be found with many different treatments such as water proof/repellent treatments, sun protective treatments or antimicrobial treatments. This fabric is used to line other breathable fabrics, it can be used as the outer layer of a breathable garment or can simply be used alone as outerwear or fashion wear.

HOW ABOUT THOSE COTTONS?

Cotton is nature's most breathable fabric. I carry only sun protective 100% cotton from Solar Protective Factory or the IMIX company. You can be assured of 95% - 99% protection from UVA and UVB rays. If you are allergic to man made fibers then these fabrics are for you! The sun protective treatment has been tested by the FDA to be hypoallergenic and it's soft and comfortable to wear. I also carry cotton/lycra blends. These fabrics are very weight and breathable while their modest amount of lycra helps them retain their shape!

WHAT ARE MICROFIBERS??

Usually a soft polyester breathable fabric. It has the desirable qualities of polyester (ease of care, color retention and a soft hand) but is highly breathable. Used in many of the clothing you see today in or out of the sports groups.

MESH

Mesh is a highly breathable fabric that is used for venting in shirts, jackets and pants. I try to carry mesh to match or coordinate with the fabrics. ***It is not sun protective and should not be used alone for sun protection.***