

# TESTING AND TECHNICAL

## Abrasion Testing

Two different methods of testing have been used to measure the ability of Place fabrics to withstand abrasion. Following is a brief explanation of these test methods and some guidelines for interpreting the results.

Unfortunately in North America, abrasion results have become a competition of numbers where the more cycles a fabric withstands during testing, the more indestructible it is considered to be. In actuality, any numbers in excess of those listed below become moot in the real world.

### **Martindale**

The Martindale abrasion test is an international standard and widely accepted throughout the world as a reliable means of determining a fabric's ability to withstand abrasion and pilling. It was developed for the express purpose of testing woven and knit fabrics. The Martindale is considered the test of choice in Europe and Asia and is endorsed by the International Wool Secretariat and Cotton Council International. Although designers in North America are less familiar with the Martindale test, it has gained recognition and credibility here. Martindale test results are accepted by The Association for Contract Fabrics as well as The Decorative Fabrics Association.

The Martindale test is considered by many experts to be a more true-to-life measurement of how a fabric will perform.

### **Wyzenbeek**

The Wyzenbeek abrasion test is used primarily in North America. Originally developed to determine the ability of automotive tires to withstand abrasion, the test method has been modified to measure how all types of materials will withstand wear. In its various iterations, the Wyzenbeek method is used to test clothing, upholstery, leather, automotive interiors and floor covering.

### **The Numbers**

#### *Martindale*

20,000 cycles = general contract upholstery

40,000 cycles = heavy duty contract upholstery

#### *Wyzenbeek*

15,000 cycles = general contract upholstery

30,000 cycles = heavy duty contract upholstery

► Note that these numbers refer to contract / commercial situations. For residential installations, the number of cycles may be lower without concern for performance. Common sense becomes the mitigator in all circumstances.