

FANCY YARNS

WHAT ARE FANCY YARNS?

Yarns that are produced with special methods to give interesting surface effects to fabrics are called complex, novelty, or fancy yarns. Although these terms are often used interchangeably, ASTM uses the term “*fancy yarn*” to identify these types of yarns.

Fancy yarns are usually uneven in size, varied in color, or modified in appearance by the presence of irregularities deliberately produced during their manufacture. Single fancy yarns are produced by the inclusion of slubs or knots. In plied fancy yarns, the irregularities are the result of variable delivery of the component parts and irregularities in size of each of the component single yarns.

There are many different types of fancy yarns, including flock, ratiné, grandelle, spiral and chenille. Two other fancy yarns commonly used in upholstery fabrics are slub yarns and bouclé yarns.

SLUB YARNS

Slub yarns are spun purposely to look irregular in shape. They are made by varying the tension of yarn twist at regular intervals to produce soft, bulky areas (slubs).

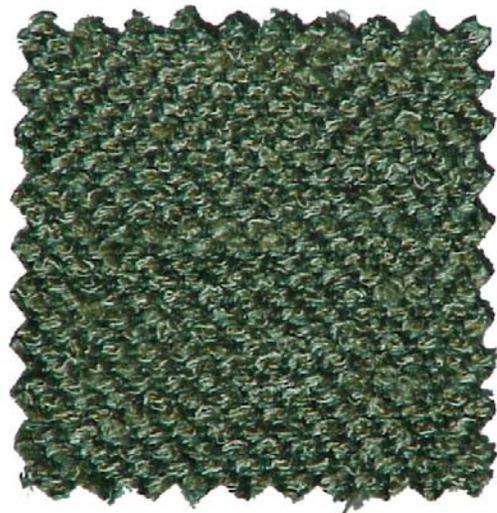
A slub yarn may be either a single yarn or two-ply. However, the majority are single yarns.

As with other fancy yarns, slub yarns can be created using virtually any fiber type.

Slub yarns are typically made with staple length fibers.

BOUCLÉ YARNS

The term “bouclé” [boo-klay] comes from the French word for “buckled.” Bouclé yarns have a rough appearance characterized by tight loops projecting from the body of the yarn at fairly regular intervals. This effect can be created by using an outer gimping yarn to gather the core yarn unevenly, leaving the core yarn exposed at intervals (known as a “corkscrew” construction). A similar effect can be achieved by varying the tension between two yarns as they are being twisted together.



Bouclé yarn may be used in both the warp and weft or just in the filling. In the fabric shown above, the bouclé yarn is in the weft direction (running left to right on the page), and is made of rayon wrapped around a nylon core yarn. The weft yarns are polyester.

PROPER CARE

Fabrics containing fancy yarns should be inspected very carefully before beginning any type of maintenance. If the yarns present an uneven surface, or a surface with loops of yarn, even simple vacuuming of the fabric should be done with caution.

Some vacuum systems have upholstery attachments that use, revolving beater brushes much like those used for carpet. These brushes are inappropriate for fabrics such as the bouclé on the opposite page. Vacuuming on these types of fabrics should be performed with suction only.

When performing spot cleaning or more general cleaning on fabrics made with fancy yarns, it should be remembered that fancy yarns are often made from a different fiber type than the rest of the fabric. Because of its lustrous effect, many times this fiber type may be rayon. When this is so, the wet strength is assumed to be significantly less

than the dry strength, requiring even greater caution.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

With proper care, fabrics created with fancy yarns can last for years. Vacuuming, rotating and flipping cushions and damp dusting are all tools that can effectively add life to these fabrics.

The Fiber-Seal Fabric Care System can benefit these fabrics by reducing absorbency, helping to resist permanent staining, and ultimately increasing the useful life of the fabric.

**AS WITH ALL FABRICS AND FINISHES,
ALWAYS TEST CHEMICALS AND/OR
PROCEDURES FIRST IN AN
INCONSPICUOUS AREA OF THE
FABRIC.**