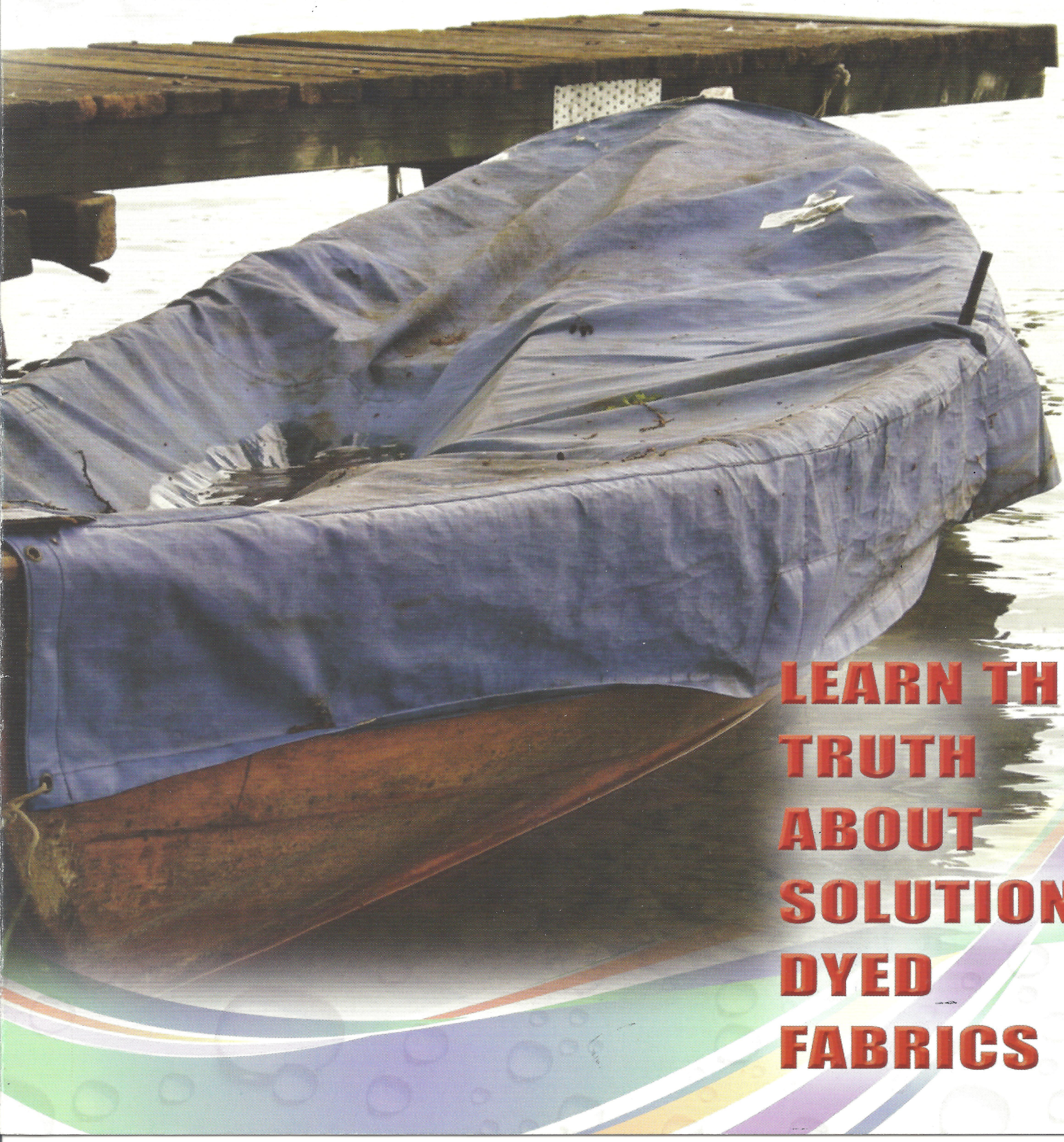
Are You Sure YOUR Cover Has You Covered?

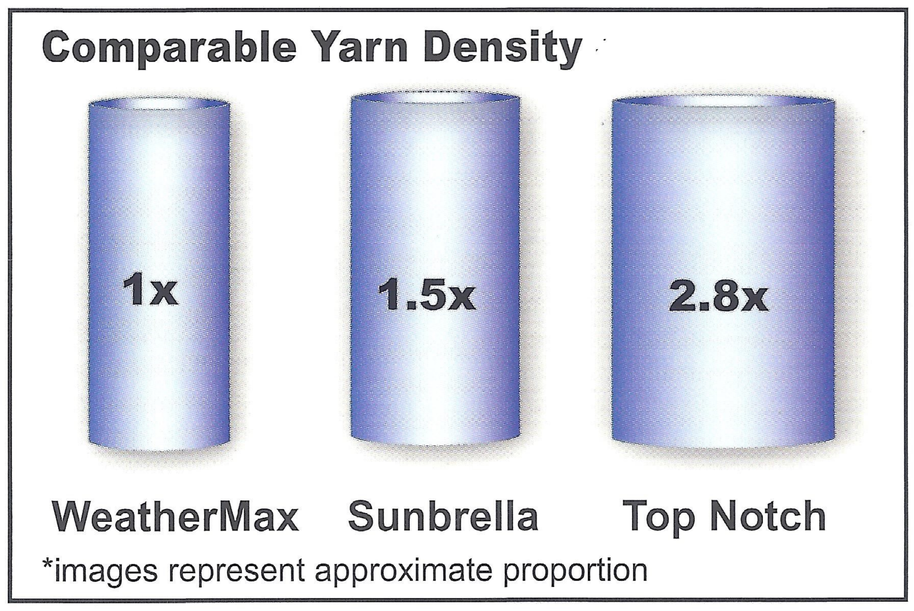


LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT SOLUTION DYED FABRICS

WHAT MAKES TOP NOTCH DIFFERENT

You are probably looking at solution dyed fabrics because you want high color retention. But what good is the fabric still holding its color if it stretches, sags, tears, and has holes in it. Why settle for one feature, when you can have all of them? Top Notch™ is not just another solution dyed fabric. It is solution dyed polyester. At MarChem CFI, we have made some of the strongest fabrics on the market, like Top Gun™. We have taken our experience and combined it with solution dyed technology to bring you the best of both worlds, a fabric that will last a long time and retain its color.

Acrylic vs. Polyester



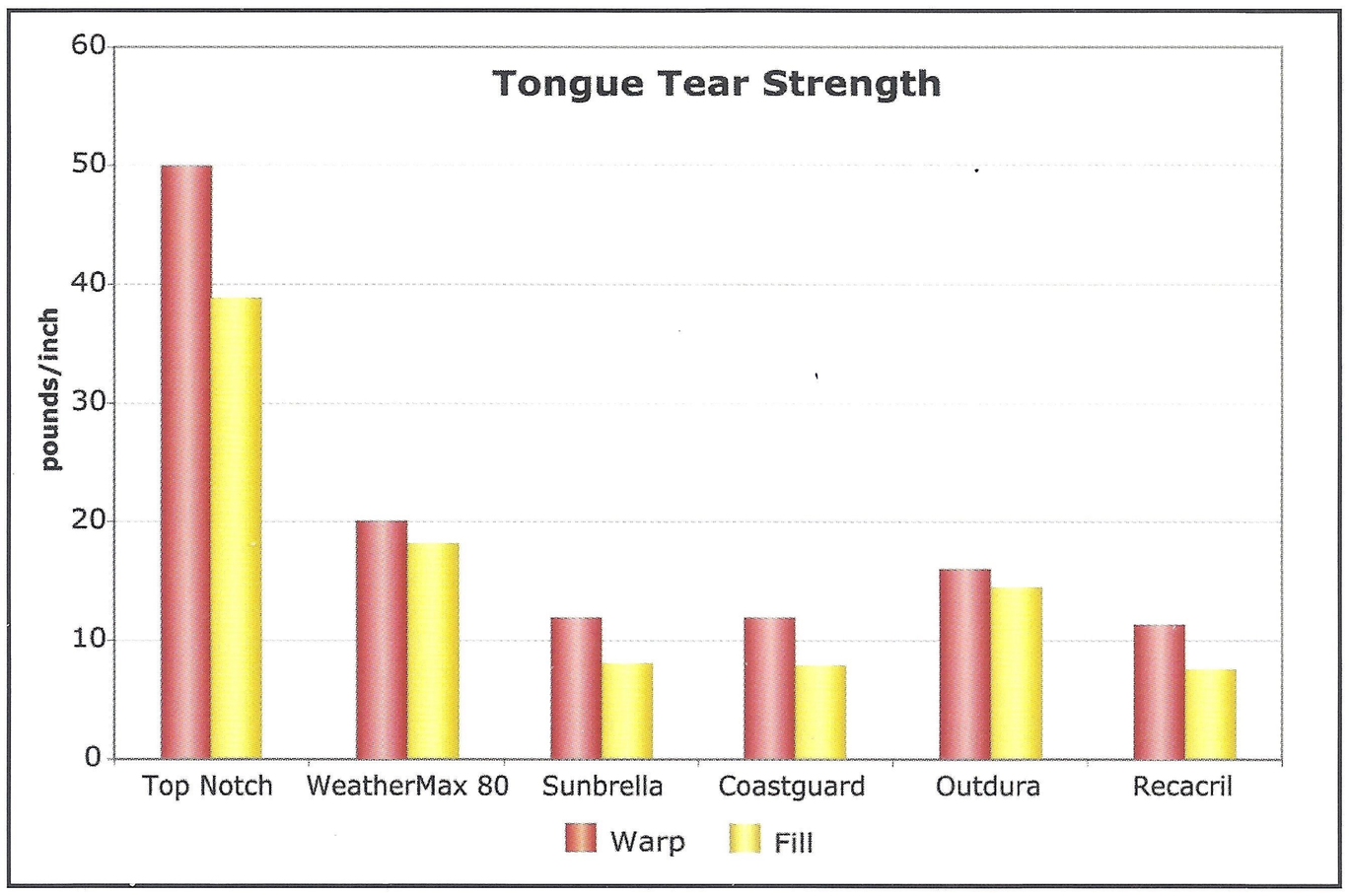
The best known solution dyed fabrics on the market are made of acrylic, but that doesn't make them better. Actually acrylic is inherently weaker than polyester, with polyester having both a higher specific gravity and tenacity strength. This results in significantly higher tensile strengths, tear strengths and abrasion resistance. The polyester used in Top Notch™ is a filament yarn instead of a staple yarn, thus making it even stronger. Using polyester gives you double the strength benefits. However, not all polyesters are created equal.

Yarn density (sometimes referred to as Denier) is also important. A polyester yarn of equal density to an acrylic yarn will be stronger. Also, a higher density polyester yarn will be stronger than both a lower density polyester yarn or a lower density acrylic yarn.

Don't be fooled by the talk that "polyester won't last". In the old days, that was people referring to coated polyester fabrics losing their color. Now it is people referring to smaller denier polyesters that don't have the beefiness and longevity of Top Notch™.

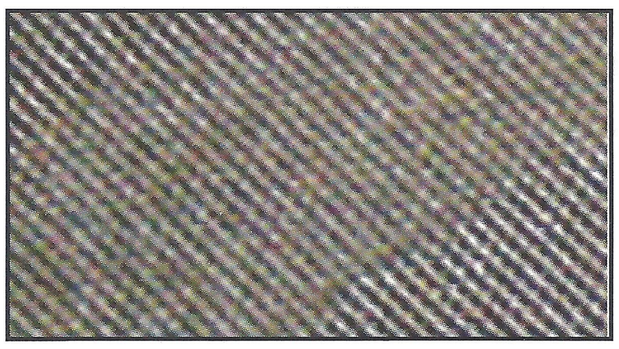
Strength

Tongue Tear You want a cover that won't tear, so tear strength should be of critical importance. Most covers, tops, and awnings will see significant stress, which can lead to tearing. Top Notch™ is the strongest solution dyed fabric on the market, so you won't have to worry about your cover, top or awning "ripping" apart.

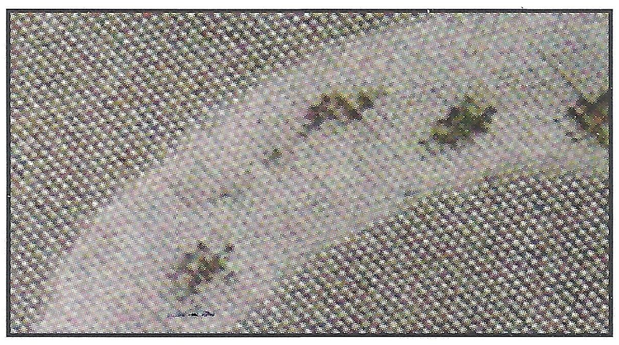


Abrasion Resistance When fabric rubs against a hard surface, such as tubing or framing, those fabrics with low abrasion resistance will deteriorate faster, resulting in holes being worn into the fabric much sooner. Top Notch™ has a significantly higher abrasion resistance than any other breathable fabric on the market. Check it out for yourself.

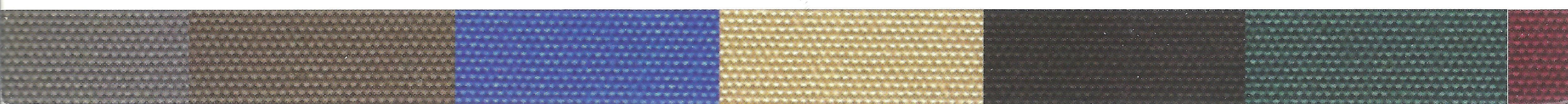
Actual Abrasion Testing Results



Top Notch

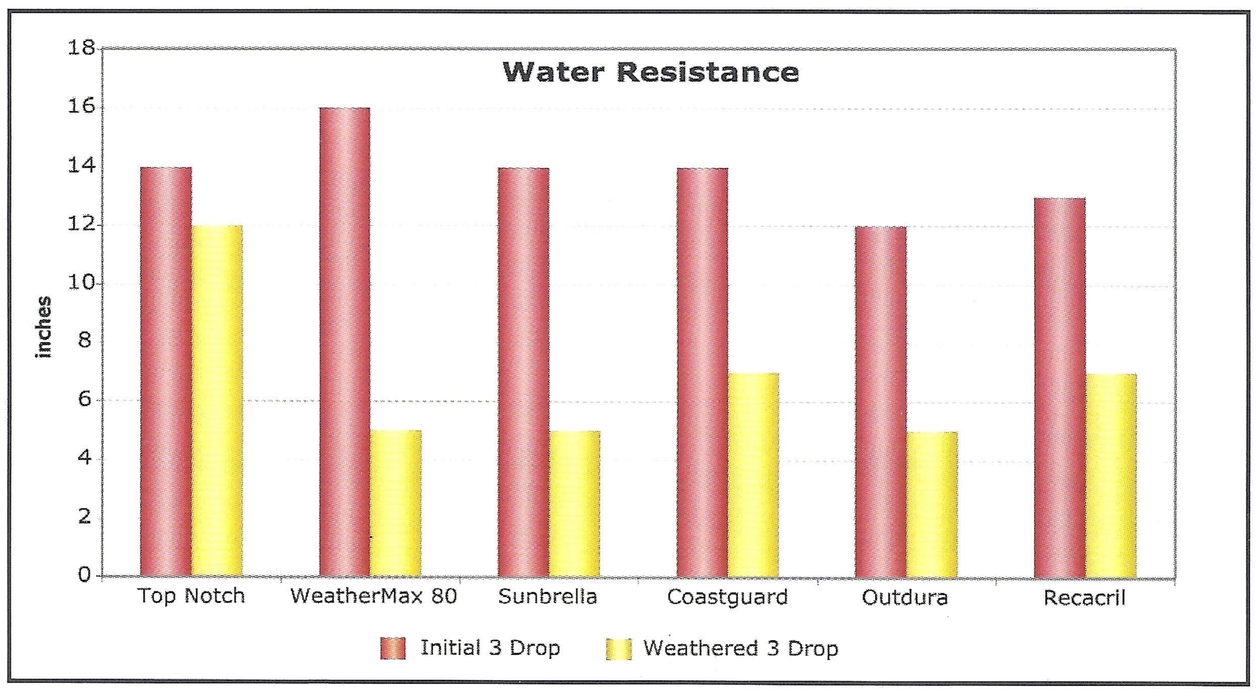


Sunbrella



Water Resistance

You are buying a fabric to keep water out, so when you purchase a fabric, it is best to have a fabric with a high water resistance. A common test in the industry to determine a fabrics ability to keep water out is the "3 Drop Test", which continues to raise a water column until three drops have permeated through the fabric. The higher the water column is raised the more pressure is exerted, thus the more water resistant the fabric is. Take a look at the chart on the right and see how Top Notch™ compares to other common solution dyed fabrics at keeping water out.



Color Fade Resistance

You picked a solution dyed fabric so it would retain its color. Solution dyed polyester is made with the color blended into the solution as the yarn is made, the same as solution dyed acrylics. This results in uniform coloring throughout the entire cross section of the yarn, not just on the surface. Because of this, solution dyed polyester retains its color as effectively as acrylic. So much so, that MarChem CFI offers a full warranty (not prorated) on Top Notch™ from excessive fading.

Stretch & Sag

Dimensional stability is key for performance and appearance. You want a fabric that retains its shape, even under pressure. A number of popular solution dyed fabrics on the market stretch and sag quite a bit. Some of the solution dyed acrylics actually "grow" when wet, meaning just the fact that they have moisture on them causes the fibers to get longer, causing the fabric to stretch. This characteristic is inherent in some acrylic fibers. When a fabric stretches, it will sag and have a tendency to collect a puddle of water. If water collects, that puts pressure on the fabric, forcing the pores to open more, causing an increased likelihood of leaking. You are using fabric to keep water out, so why pick one that allows water to get in. By contrast, Top Notch™ has outstanding dimensional stability and will not "grow" when wet.

Weather Resistance

You use a fabric to keep the elements out. That means that the fabric will protect you by absorbing the harsh effects of the sun, rain, wind and other weather factors. You need a fabric that resists Mother Nature. All fabrics will deteriorate over time after exposure to the elements, but not all fabrics deteriorate at the same rate. Top Notch™ is stronger (higher tear strength) after nearly 4 years of southern Florida exposure than Sunbrella® is brand new!

TopNotch

THE TOP CHOICE FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THE FACTS

Top Notch™ is Best

As you can see, Top Notch™ outperforms every other solution dyed material on the market. Whether it is abrasion resistance, tear strength, dimensional stability, or water resistance, there is nothing better than Top Notch™ for your solution dyed fabric applications. Try Top Notch™ and see why more and more people are realizing the truth about solution dyed fabrics.

Top Notch vs. The Competition

SPECIFICATION	TOP NOTCH™	SUNBRELLA®	WEATHERMAX 80™	COAST GUARD®	OUTDURA®	RECACRIL®
Material	Solution Dyed Polyester	Solution Dyed Acrylic	Solution Dyed Polyester	Solution Dyed Acrylic	Solution Dyed Acrylic	Solution Dyed Acrylic
Weight (oz.)	11.5	9	8	9	9.25	9
Initial Tear Strength (lb/in)	46 x 45	11 x 7	20 x 18	12 x 8	16.1 x 15.6	11.5 x 7.7
Weathered Tear Strength (lb/in)	16.6 x 10.5	5.6 x 2.2	5.1 x 2.0	4.5 x 3.5	7.1 x 2.6	4.9 x 2.0
Initial Tensile Strength (lb/in)	500+ x 357	285 x 185	490 x 390	285 x 170	300 x 170	287 x 149
Weathered Tensile Strength (lb/in)	275 x 93	135 x 80	105 x 97	165 x 110	151 x 70	133 x 60
Initial 3 Drop Rating (in)	14	14	16	14	12	13
Weathered 3 Drop Rating (in)	12	5	5	7	5	7
Dimensional Stability (%)	0.3 x 0	2.5 x 0.6	0.6 x 0	2.5 x 0.9	0.6 x 0	0.15 x 0
Taber Abrasion (cycles till breakthrough)	600	90	99	196	102	143

** Weathered data is after 500 hours in a Carbon Arc, no filter weatherometer. This is equivalent to 3 1/2 years southern Florida exposure.*

Data obtained by MarChem CFI testing of fabric or competitive brands published specification.

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