



Frequently Asked Questions

These are frequently asked questions about KM Fabrics and our fine woven velvets, plus the answers. If you have any questions we haven't answered, please contact us.

What's the difference between inherently flame retardant (IFR) fabrics and treated flame retardant (FR) fabrics?

IFR fabrics are woven with flame retardant fiber. FR fabrics receive a flame retardant finish after weaving. The topical FR finish provides equivalent protection, but may require new FR treatment after dry cleaning. KM recommends annual testing of drapery fabrics using the Field Test Method for textiles, NFPA 705.

How do you test your drapery and stage curtain fabrics?

We test using the NFPA standard. Our fabrics are all NFPA 701-compliant under the 2010 Test Method 1. We also test to make sure our fabrics meet or exceed requirements established in California, New York and other municipalities.

Our drapery fabrics meet or exceed industry performance and flammability standards, as well as color and lightfastness standards. These fabrics have excellent opacity and sound absorption with a "best" rating for Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC).

Do you do custom colors?

Yes. We work with architects, designers and our distributors on custom fabric colors. Send us a PMS chip or color reference and we'll work with you to create the exact color you want.

Minimum orders apply.

What's the difference between velvet and velour?

KM's fabrics are true woven velvets. This is important to note, as people often use the words "velvet" and "velour" interchangeably and they're different fabrics.

Velvet is woven, for a softer hand, more luster and better drape. Velour is knit, with a shorter pile or brushed surface, so it's soft, but it doesn't feel as soft or full as velvet. And it won't have the sheen of velvets woven with bright fibers.

We weave our velvets with the finest quality natural and synthetic yarns. The weaving process is more complex, to create two pieces of fabric simultaneously.

Do stage curtains require special care or cleaning?

Our 100 IFR% polyester velvets are flame retardant for the life of the curtains. They should never require additional FR retreatment. Depending on their environment, we suggest periodic cleaning. We recommend annual field testing.

Light vacuuming with a soft brush keeps 100% IFR polyester curtains fresh and removes airborne pollutants, such as dust and allergens. Dry clean these curtains as often as needed.

Our 100% FR cotton velvets will require dry cleaning for extended exposure to high or low humidity, or unusual dust build up. These conditions can degrade FR performance. Cotton velvets require new FR treatment after dry cleaning and we recommend annual field testing.

Light vacuuming with a soft brush and keeping the area clean and dust-free will reduce the need for dry cleaning.

How do I test for flame retardant performance?

We recommend periodic field testing for flame retardant performance. Changes in atmospheric humidity and buildup of airborne dust and oils reduces FR performance and durability.

An annual test of velvet stage curtains, using the NFPA 705 Field Test Method for Textiles, will ensure the proper level of performance.