



Interfacing Types and Uses

It might not seem the most interesting part of dressmaking knowledge, but it's essential to read up on **interfacing types and uses** if you want professional results. Interfacing is an additional fabric layer used in key areas of a garment to provide **shape, strength, and support** (the 3 S's!). You'll find it in waistbands, collars, cuffs, and shirt plackets, where structure matters most.

It's usually applied to the facing or underlayer rather than the main fabric. But choosing the wrong interfacing can ruin your garment's appearance. A good rule of thumb is to select a variety that's the **same weight or slightly lighter** than your main fabric — never heavier.

What Are the Main Interfacing Types and Uses?

Interfacing is available in several forms, and each type is designed for specific uses. Understanding the differences will help you achieve a crisp finish that complements your fabric.

- **Structure:** Woven, non-woven, or knitted
- **Weight:** Light, medium, or heavy
- **Application:** Fusible or sew-in
- **Colour:** White, black, grey, or beige

Always test interfacing on a fabric scrap first. Make sure it doesn't show through or negatively affect the fabric's colour, drape, or texture.

Woven Interfacing

Woven interfacing behaves like regular fabric and must be cut on the same grain as your garment pieces. It's especially helpful for **bias-cut sections**, providing stability while allowing natural movement. Woven interfacing is often used in tailored garments where shape and precision are key.

Non-Woven Interfacing (Spun-Bonded)

Non-woven interfacing has no grain, so you can cut it in any direction. It doesn't fray and is easy to use, making it popular with beginners. However, it can **restrict stretch** on bias sections, so woven interfacing may be a better option in those cases.

Knitted Interfacing

Knitted interfacing is designed for use on **stretch fabrics**. It maintains flexibility and should be applied so that the stretch runs in the same direction as the garment fabric. It's ideal for jersey, ponte, and other knit fabrics.

Choosing the Right Colour

Most non-woven interfacings come in **white or black**. Choose the one that most closely matches your fabric to avoid "show-through." For red or other mid-tones, test both light and

dark options. Tailoring interfacings (like canvas) are available in **neutral shades** such as grey or beige.

Fusible Interfacing

Fusible interfacing is coated with a glue layer that melts under heat and steam. The glue side looks shiny or has tiny raised dots — this side should face the **wrong side of your fabric**.

How to Apply Fusible Interfacing

1. Place the glue side down on your fabric's wrong side.
2. Tack gently using the iron tip to hold it in place.
3. Cover with a damp pressing cloth to prevent glue transfer.
4. Use a **patting motion** with firm pressure across the entire piece.
5. Press again from the right side to strengthen the bond.

Fusible interfacing **isn't suitable for all fabrics**. Avoid using it on heavily textured or heat-sensitive materials like velvet, tweed, acetate, or some silks. In those cases, opt for a sew-in variety instead.

Sew-In Interfacing

Sew-in interfacing is perfect for **fine, delicate, or thick fabrics**, and is widely used in traditional tailoring. You can also use silk organza, fine cotton, or an extra layer of the garment fabric itself. Just ensure that the weight and care instructions of both fabrics are compatible.

How to Apply Sew-In Interfacing

- Cut interfacing to the same size and shape as the pattern piece.
- Machine-tack the interfacing just beyond the seamline (don't backstitch).
- Construct the garment as normal, treating the layers as one.

Where to Learn More About Interfacing Types and Uses

If you'd like to develop your garment construction skills further, join one of my popular [Dressmaking Courses](#). You'll gain hands-on practice with applying interfacing and build the confidence to sew professionally finished garments.

You can also explore the full range of interfacings on [Vlieseline's official website](#) — they offer over 600 products!

Conclusion

Understanding the different **interfacing types and uses** is key to creating garments that hold their shape and look polished. Whether you choose fusible or sew-in, woven or non-woven, the right interfacing supports your fabric in all the right ways.