

What are double rubs?

Double rubs are a measurement of a fabric's abrasion resistance. ... A piece of cotton duck is stretched over a mechanical arm and passed back and forth over the test fabric in each direction. Each back and forth motion is one double rub. The cotton duck passing over the fabric simulates the wear of a fabric being used as a seat cushion, for example. The test is run in sets of 5,000 double rubs until the fabric shows "noticeable wear" or two yarn breaks.

When you look up the specs on a fabric online, this is one of the statistics that the manufacturer will usually provide.

Suggested Guidelines for choosing the right fabric for your project are generally broken down into 2 categories, **Residential** and **Commercial** as follows:

Double Rubs for Residential Applications

- **Heavy Duty:** 15,000+ double rubs. Suitable for family rooms.
- **Medium Duty:** 9,000-15,000 double rubs. Versatile. Good for living or family rooms.
- **Light Duty:** 3,000-9,000 double rubs. Usually better suited for formal or occasional use furniture.
- **Delicate Duty:** Less than 3,000 double rubs. Recommended for more decorative use as in curtains, drapes or pillows.

Double Rubs for Commercial Applications

- **Contract Upholstery Minimum:** 15,000 double rubs is considered the minimum for general contract, commercial upholstery projects.
- Heavy Duty: 15,000-30,000 double rubs. Suitable for single shift offices, conference rooms, hotel rooms and dining areas.
- **Extra-Heavy Duty:** 30,000+ double rubs. Recommended for constant use as in hospital waiting areas, airport terminals, fast food restaurants, theaters and stadiums.