

A guide to choosing your fabric by Hamilton & Hodson

Choosing the right fabric for your furniture is crucial to how much you will like your finished piece! The key things to consider when choosing fabrics are:

- ***The age of the piece of furniture***
Not all fabrics suit all eras of furniture, e.g. good quality plain woollen fabrics suit mid-century modern pieces; patterned fabrics suit older, Victorian-style pieces.
- ***How often the piece will be used***
If it will be well used, a more durable fabric is recommended. Upholstery fabrics have a Martindale or Rub Test: look for a rub test figure of between 20,000 and 40,000. Some fabrics are much more durable than others, e.g. wool, velvet.
- ***Light fastness***
If the furniture will be placed in a particularly sunny room, it's worth considering fabrics that have a good light-fastness rating. Not all fabrics do.
- ***Your budget***
As you can imagine, the price per metre of fabrics varies considerably. As a general rule, you're usually buying good quality fabrics if you spend over £30 per metre. When Hamilton and Hodson draw up a quote for you, we include how much fabric you will need. Bear this in mind when choosing your fabric. Also consider how a fabric feels; the softer, the better.

One last thing to consider: trust your instincts! If you love the fabric and feel that it's the right choice, it is!

Recommended Fabric Companies

Below is a short list of companies that we use regularly. We recommend these companies because: we love their range of fabrics; they're reasonably priced; they're reliable and the fabric is good quality. We highly recommend clients ordering samples of fabric they like the look of: fabric can look very different online and you won't be able to feel it. If you find any samples you'd like but have to pay as an individual, please email us the details and we can usually request them to be sent directly to you free of charge.

Bute Fabrics

Based on the Isle of Bute in Scotland, this company specialises in high-quality wool / wool-mix fabrics in beautiful plain colours and textures.

<https://www.butefabrics.com/>

Camira Fabrics

This company specialises in commercial-grade upholstery fabrics. They have an extensive range of plain and textured high-quality fabrics.

<https://www.camirafabrics.com/en>

Designers Guild

This well-known interiors company has an extensive fabric range. If you looking for bright colours and patterns, look no further...

<https://www.designersguild.com/>

Emma J Shipley

We adore this company! They sell a beautiful range of highly patterned, eccentric fabrics and are very reasonably priced.

<https://emmajshipley.com/>

Jane Clayton & Company

This company sells fabric for lots of different well-known companies, including: Harlequin; Osborne & Little; Sanderson; Zoffany.

<https://www.janeclayton.co.uk/>

Linwood Fabrics

We use this company a lot! They have a great range of plain and patterned fabrics suiting all budgets. Many of their fabrics are made in the UK and washable / stain resistant.

<https://linwoodfabric.com/>

Timorous Beasties

This company was started by two artists. Their fabrics are mouth-watering: very painterly, very colourful and huge patterns. However, their prices start at £90 per metre. Not a cheap choice, but if you have a large budget or don't need much fabric, they're worth looking at.

<https://www.timorousbeasties.com/>

A note about vinyl and leather

We are very experienced in using vinyl and leather. Please get in touch if this is of interest to you.