

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Historical Materials from University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Extension

---

2000

## NF00-413 Sewing with Sand-washed Fabrics

Rose Marie Tondl

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

---

Tondl, Rose Marie, "NF00-413 Sewing with Sand-washed Fabrics" (2000). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 1141.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/1141>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



# NebFact



Published by Cooperative Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## Sewing with Sand-washed Fabrics

*Rose Marie Tondl, Extension Clothing Specialist*

What is sand-washed fabric? Sand-washed fabric refers to the surface finish treatment that gives fabric a soft, chamois-like feel and luster. Other names include sueded or doeskin fabric. The fabric is made from silk, polyester or rayon.

### **Patterns**

This lightweight fabric is commonly used in dresses, blouses, softly styled pants, unstructured tops and lingerie.

### **Preshrink**

Rayon and polyester can be machine-washed on a gentle cycle and machine dried at a low temperature. Hand wash silk fabric.

### **Layout/Cutting**

For slippery fabrics, pin to tissue paper to keep fabric from being distorted. Pin ends of fabric and along the selvage to hold fabric together. Use fine, sharp pins in the seam allowances. Discard dull ones as they might snag the fabric. Cut with sharp shears.

### **Marking**

Use snip marking at the notches or mark with chalk.

### **Interfacing**

The patterns selected generally do not need a lot of structure. For areas needing support, use a sheer weight sew-in interfacing or self-fabric.

### **Needles**

Use a fine needle sizes 65/9 to 75/11. Test by sewing a seam on a scrap of fabric.

### **Sewing**

Set the stitch length at 2 to 2.5 mm or 10-12 stitches per inch. Check for any rough spots on your machine and the throat plate to avoid snagging the fabric. Select cotton, a fine, long staple polyester or fine machine embroidery thread. Use taut sewing for smooth lengthwise seams. If

using a wide-spaced presser foot, move needle to the far left for fabric support. Use a single-hole throat plate and presser foot if you have one for the machine.

### **Seam Finishes**

Serge seams or make double-stitched seams, french seams or flat felled. Using woolly nylon in the serger loopers may create a softer seam.

### **Pressing**

Use a medium temperature. Test using steam and a dry iron. Spitting from the iron may cause water spots. Care needs to be taken to avoid seam imprints on the right side of fabric. Use a sleeve roll to reduce this problem.

### **Hemming**

Make narrow hems using the sewing machine. Serge or turn under the raw edge before topstitching.

---

***File NF413 under TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND DESIGN  
C-7, Construction  
Issued March 2000***

---

*Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Elbert C. Dickey, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.*

*University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educational programs abide with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.*