

WHAT IS THE MARTINDALE TEST?

The Martindale test is used to measure the durability of a fabric. Martindale is a unit to measure fabric's abrasion resistance. Also known as the rub test, Martindale tests are undertaken on upholstery fabrics to check their suitability for various uses – i.e. decorative chairs, heavy-traffic areas or commercial furniture.

HOW DOES THE TEST WORK?

The fabric being tested is pulled taut and loaded onto the lower plates of the Martindale machine. Small discs of worsted wool or wire mesh are continually rubbed against the fabric in circular motion. The fabric is continually inspected for wear and tear, and the test ends when two yarns break or when there is a noticeable change in appearance. Test results are given as a score of 1000's of rubs or cycles, and the higher the number is, the more suitable the fabric is for heavier useage. Fabrics are categorised depending on their test results.

HOW TO READ THE MARTINDALE TEST RESULTS

<i>10.000 or less</i>	<i>10.000 to 15.000</i>	<i>15.000 to 25.000</i>	<i>25.000 to 30.000</i>	<i>30.000 or more</i>
Fabric is suitable for decorative use such as cushions	Fabric is suitable for light occasional domestic use	Fabric is suitable for general everyday domestic use on main household furniture	Fabric is suitable for high levels of everyday use	Fabric is suitable for use on heavy duty furniture suitable for a commercial environment.

