



## Fabric Pilling: Part One

### What Is It & How to Avoid It



We all hate them: fabric pills. You know, that fuzz that appears on your linen after it's been washed. What causes pilling and how can we make it go away?

Pilling can be broadly defined as the sloughing off of fabric fibers due to washing, abrasion, and normal wear. It occurs on any fabric – natural or manmade. In natural fabrics such as cotton, pills fall off soon after formation so they are hardly noticed. Often called linting, these fibers are usually removed during the first laundering.

Manmade fibers, however, have strong anchors that keep the pills on the fabric surface of synthetic or cotton blend fabrics. Pilling is noticeable because the sloughed fabric forms small clumps and attaches to the fabric.

You can avoid pilling problems by purchasing tightly-constructed products made with long staple fibers and a high degree of twist. Hilden America uses Egyptian long staple (ELS) cotton in its linen as just one factor in pill prevention. Once you have a good product, pilling can be avoided or minimized with proper laundering. Fabric types and colors should not be mixed in the same load, and a shorter agitation and wash cycle will prevent pills caused by abrasion.

The scale for measuring a fabric's tendency toward pilling is called pill rating. It ranges from one to five, with one being severe pilling and five being zero pills. Most hospitality industry fabrics have a pill rating of 3-4. In next month's newsletter we'll examine the types of pill testing, their effectiveness, and a search for standards.

## Back in Black

Hotels these days are breaking away from the neutral tone trend and selecting black for their table linen, especially napkins. Select hotels such as the W, Fairmont, and Ritz Carlton are offering black napkins as an upgrade from traditional white in their restaurants, and for banquets and catering.

Clients often look for more than the normal linen service which typically includes lower-quality napkins using short fibers that lint or pill on clothing. High-end hotels recognize the long-lasting impression that quality black napkins leave on clients, and have increased demand for options in black.

In response to this demand, Hilden America now stocks 100% cotton black Partridge Eye Border napkins in addition to the popular Plain Satin and Satin Band. If you like the Partridge Eye design and are looking for something sophisticated yet durable, [call or email us for a sample and pricing.](#)

## Happy 1st Birthday to the Hilden Report!



Now that The Hilden Report is a year old, we would like to get your feedback on its format and content.

### [Click here to take our short survey!](#)

With your help Hilden America will provide an even more useful, informative, and easy to read newsletter.

As a thank you for completing our survey you'll be eligible to

**win a robe & slippers  
or 600TC cotton  
sheets.**

*What Is Pilling and How to Avoid It*



Call today for information on our new black Partridge Eye Border napkin in 100% ELS Cotton!

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