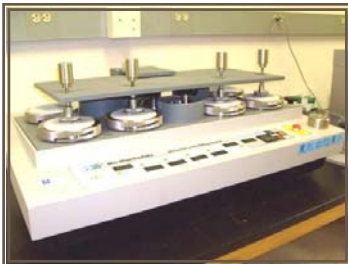




Fabric Pilling Part Two: Pill Testing



Last month we defined pilling and how you—the end user or purchaser—can avoid it. In part two of our series we'll share two common tests manufacturers use to evaluate bed sheet fabrics for pilling.

When products are woven they should be tested at the mill for quality, including color, fiber quality/durability, and tendency to pill. For American suppliers, the two commonly-used tests for pill rating are D4970 (aka the Martindale pill test) and D3512 (aka the Random Tumble test) as defined by the American Society for Testing and Materials International, or ASTM. Both of these tests produce a pill rating, or number from 1-5 where 1 is severe pilling and 5 is no pilling.



The Martindale (first machine) shows resistance to abrasion by rubbing discs of fabric against themselves in a figure-eight motion. It is a newer test in the US, but has long been used in Europe and Asia. Readings are taken throughout the test to evaluate pilling.

The Random Tumble (second machine) does not apply even wear to fabric for pill readings at periodic intervals. Instead fabric samples are placed in it's rotating barrels including a steel bar for 30 minutes, and are evaluated for pilling at the test's conclusion. The Random Tumble has been prevalent longer in the United States, and is still referenced in the ASTM D5431 Standard Performance Specifications for woven or knit bed sheets.

Lockstitch Hems Explained



Although many things make a high-quality hospitality linen product, maybe the easiest to see and understand is the lock stitch.

A lock stitch is a type of stitch used in the hems of all Hilden America table, bed and bath linen. The lock stitch is sewn using thread from the top and bottom of the fabric, unlike the chain stitch which is only from the top. This way if one stitch breaks the entire hem does not unravel.

We've all pulled at seemingly-insignificant thread on our clothing, only to find that it pulls out a long chain of stitches. Don't let this happen to your linen! Insist on lockstitch hems.

Fabric Pilling Part Two: Pill Testing

Perfectly Percale Cotton Rich Bed Linen

Percale weave bed linen has a particularly crisp, classic feel to it. In 100% cotton, however, it requires maintenance to keep it wrinkle free. Our 60/40 Cotton Rich Percale bed linen - with its long staple cotton and poly fibers of equal length - keeps the look and feel of cotton percale without the maintenance.

At a 250 thread count these cotton rich linens have a uniform look and keep that classically crisp percale finish. With matched cotton and polyester fibers, the durable fabric has a uniform look that resists pilling and will last longer.

Our T250 Cotton Rich Percale is preferred by several four-star properties in Boston, New York, and throughout the Americas. If you like 100% cotton percale but would like to see and feel its Cotton Rich counterpart, [call or email us for a sample and pricing.](#)



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