

SheerWeave polyester core yarn fabrics and fiberglass core yarn fabrics are coated with PVC.

Phifer is the only weaver of these fabrics that manufactures fabrics from both yarn types. No question these yarns have unique characteristics. Polyester is typically promoted as stronger and fiberglass as thinner. Historically polyester fabrics were thicker/heavier and this was held up as a benefit for durability for commercial areas, public spaces or high traffic applications. There are now thinner polyester options on the market such as our Style 4500/4600.

The counter to thicker/heavier would be that fiberglass yarns are thinner and lighter weight. These features allow for smaller roll up making long shades more compact for installation purposes, also lighter weight fabrics allow for smaller roller tubes and put less stress on components. Thinner fabrics tend to have a "finer" appearance and a cleaner view through when comparing the same color and openness factor to its polyester equivalent.

- WHICH MATERIAL MAKE-UP IS MORE DURABLE - The polyester yarns have more strength than fiberglass yarns and are more durable. Polyester yarns will stretch under pressure before breaking. Fiberglass yarns are made of glass and will not stretch.
- WHICH FABRIC MAKE-UP IS MORE WASHABLE - When comparing vinyl-coated polyester fabrics and vinyl-coated fiberglass fabrics one is not more washable than the other.
- WHICH IS MORE STRETCH RESISTANT and HOLDS THE SHAPE BETTER - The fiberglass yarns do not stretch and are more stable. Polyester yarns do stretch but they give you more strength.
- WHICH FABRIC MAKE-UP BETTER RESISTS FRAYING - Because of differences in these yarns there may also be a notable difference in how the yarn responds to cutting. Polyester yarn is sensitive to extreme heat and will provide a "clean" cut edge on the shade when ultrasonic cut. It is also common practice to use some type of flame source on the cut edge of the shade to clean off any remaining exposed polyester fibers. Fiberglass on the other hand does not respond to heat. If the vinyl coating is stripped away from the fiberglass yarn, such as in the case of a dull blade being pulled through the fabric, small fiberglass fibers may also be visible on the shades edge. If noticeable, these fibers would need to be trimmed, typically with scissors or an electric trimmer. Neither core yarn will continue to fray from the fabric once initially trimmed and should not present a problem for the end user.
- WHICH ARE MORE FADE RESISTANT- Both the vinyl-coated polyester and vinyl-coated fiberglass fabrics have UV inhibitors in them to help them resist fading. They both perform about the same.
- WHICH FABRIC MAKE-UP IS MORE MOISTURE RESISTANT- Both the vinyl-coated polyester and vinyl-coated fiberglass fabrics are coated with vinyl, which helps them stand up to moisture; one is not really more resistant than the other.

Assuming both fabric options are manufactured properly and the shades are fabricated properly; both will provide a long life and excellent performance. It is really more the qualities of the PVC coating on either yarn that will determine the fabrics life span, color fastness and durability.