

# Polyurethane (PU) vs. Vinyl (PVC)

## **Polyurethane (PU)**

Polyurethane is a type of performance fabric that is made by coating a textile substrate with a polyurethane resin. The face of the product can be textured using release papers to add dimension and depth, to simulate a leather grain or add a woven appearance. Polyurethane fabric qualities are used in other markets including apparel, footwear, handbags, and accessories. KnollTextiles offers polyurethane qualities that are engineered to be used as contract upholstery.

### **Key Characteristics:**

- Soft and rich in hand, like leather
- More supple than vinyl
- Surface is microporous and allows the fabric to “breathe” and remain cooler when sat upon more like a woven upholstery and unlike vinyl
- Inherently acts as a moisture barrier
- Excellent abrasion resistance
- Lighter in weight than vinyl
- Liquid spills can be easily wiped away
- Can be cleaned with mild soap and water solution
- High performance PU can be cleaned with diluted solutions of bleach
- May be inappropriate for environments using harsh cleaners or disinfectants

## **Vinyl (Polyvinyl Chloride or PVC)**

Vinyl is a proven material for upholstery end uses in some of the harshest environments. Derived from a lamination of vinyl with a textile base, vinyl upholstery is a stable fabric covering choice for markets like automotive, marine and RV, as well as residential and commercial furniture.

### **Key Characteristics:**

- Unique in durability and versatility as an upholstery material
- Long service life expectancy
- Inherently acts as a moisture barrier
- Excellent resistance to abrasion, chemicals and UV exposure
- Can be cleaned with mild soap and water solution
- Can be disinfected with harsher cleaners including diluted solutions of bleach
- Sole choice for use in areas where heavy soiling or spilling of liquids may occur
- Proven unequalled in healthcare and laboratory environments
- Stiffer hand may not upholster as well on curved furniture shapes
- Not biodegradable