Outerwear Glossary of Terms

Anti-Pill Finish. A treatment applied to garments primarily to resist the formation of little balls on the fabric's surface due to abrasion during wear.

Bonded Fleece. Multiple layers of fleece bonded together to form a higher functioning garment.

Bonding. The technique of permanently joining together two fabrics or layers of fabric together by a bonding agent into one package.

Breathability. The movement of water or water vapor from one side of the fabric to the other, caused by capillary action, wicking, chemical or electrostatic action.

Breathability Rating. The higher the number—the more breathable the fabric. Specifically, the breathability rating is expressed in grams of how much vapor a square meter (G/M2) of fabric will allow to through in 24 hours. For instance, a jacket with the rating of 3,000 G/M2 means the jacket will allow 3000 grams of vapor to escape for every square meter of fabric in a 24-hour period.

Cashmere. A fabric woven from the soft, fine under coat of goats living in the high, dry plateaus surrounding the Gobi Desert, which stretch from Northern China into Mongolia. Cashmere sweaters are usually knit on hand-operated machines to create a luxurious garment.

Casual Microfiber. 100% polyester microfiber fabric that is water repellent and wind resistant.

Cavalry Twill. A type of twill weave pattern.

Corduroy. A fabric (usually cotton) with distinctive vertical rows (wales) of soft pile that vary in width from pin to wide.

Double-Needle Stitching. A finish used on a sleeve and/or bottom hem that uses two needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching. It gives the garment a cleaner, more finished look and adds durability

Down. The soft fluffy under feathers of ducks and geese, often used to line jackets and vests for its insulation and warming properties.

Drop Tail. A longer back than front for the purpose of keeping the shirt tucked in. Also referred to as Extended Tail.

Duck Cloth. Tightly woven fabric that provides wind and snag resistance.

Ergonomic. Design elements incorporated into a garment to improve the design by enhancing the wearer's comfort, performance or health.

Microfleece. A high density, anti-pilling fleece made of knit micro-fibers that are brushed less than a regular fleece garment. It has a high capacity for warmth without the weight.

Microfiber. This fabric is tightly woven from a very fine poly thread and has a sueded finish for a luxuriously soft feel. Microfiber fabric is naturally water repellent due to its construction process and when specially treated can also be waterproof.

Nylon. A synthetic polymer; a plastic, durable fabric used in apparel and other everyday items.

Pima-Tek™. Lightweight pima cotton, polyester and spandex jersey knit with a smooth hand and plenty of stretch for active wear. Also contains moisture-wicking properties.

Poly-Fill. A warm polyester lining found in the body or sleeves of outerwear garments. It has more loft than a regular nylon lining.

Polyester. A strong, durable synthetic fabric. Low absorbency allows the fiber to dry quickly.

Recycled R-Tek™ Fleece. 100% polyester fleece with 40% recycled content. An anti-pill finish prevents the formation of little balls on the surface of the fabric.

R-Tek™ Fleece. 100% polyester fleece with an anti-pill finish, which prevents the formation of little balls on the surface of the fabric.

Rip-Stop Nylon. A lightweight, wind resistant and water resistant plain weave fabric.

Seam Sealing. The process that bonds to the join of fabrics to ensure full waterproof integrity.

Sherpa Fleece. A knit terry fabric that has been brushed and washed to raise the fibers for a fluffy, plush feel. The thick terry loops stay soft and absorbent over time.

Silk. Obtained from the cocoon of silkworm, silk is a natural protein fiber that can be woven into textiles. The shimmering appearance for which silk is prized comes from the fiber's triangular, prism-like structure, which allows silk cloth to refract incoming light at different angles. For centuries, silk has been coveted for its fine hand and fluid drape.

Soft Shell. Soft shell fabrics combine the benefits of hard shell fabrics with a breathable, flexible and comfortable fabric.

Stain Resistance. A fiber or fabric property of resisting spots and stains.

Storm Flap. A piece of fabric that covers and protects an opening (usually a zipper) on an item of clothing. It is designed to add another barrier on more vulnerable parts of your clothing to keep out wind, rain and snow.

Triple-Needle Stitching. A finish used on stress seams that uses three needles to create parallel rows of visible stitching, giving the garment a finished look and added durability.

Two-Way Zipper. A zipper with two sliders so that the garment can be unzipped from either direction.

Waterproof. A term applied to fabrics whose pores have been closed and, therefore, will not allow water to pass through them.

Waterproof Rating. The higher the number—the better the rating. Specifically, the waterproof rating is expressed in millimeters (MM) and refers to the amount of water the fabric will hold before it leaks. For instance, a jacket with the rating of 8,000 MM means the jacket will withstand 8,000 millimeters of water. There are different levels of waterproofing, but a fabric must have a rating of 1,500 MM to be considered waterproof.

Water repellent. A finished fabric's ability to cause water to bead up and roll off.

Water Resistant. The degree by which water is able to penetrate a fabric.

Welding. The technique by which seams are affixed to one another without stitching.

Wickability. The ability of a fiber or a fabric to disperse moisture and allow it to pass through to the surface of the fabric so that evaporation can take place.

Wicking. Dispersing or spreading of moisture or liquid through a given area by capillary action in a material.

Wind Resistant. The ability of a fabric to act against or oppose the penetration of wind or air, without being completely windproof.

Wool. Usually associated with fiber or fabric made from the fleece of sheep or lamb. However, the term "wool" can also apply to all animal hair fibers, including the hair of the Cashmere or Angora goat or the specialty hair fibers of the camel, alpaca, llama or vicuna