

05 Fabric Selection

Use nearly any fabric

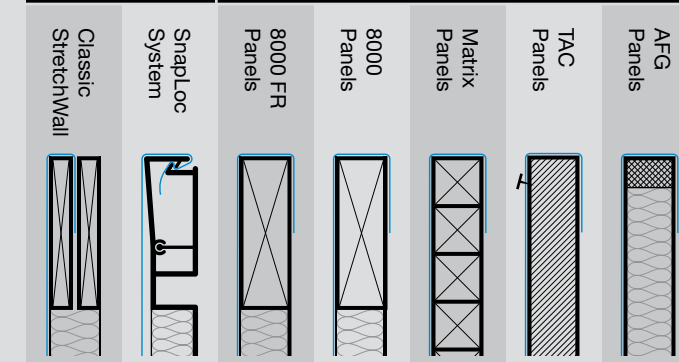
StretchWall is the choice of architects and interior designers when only the finest surfaces, greatest economies and high performance will do when it comes to upholstered walls and ceilings. Others may provide similar systems, but none compare to StretchWall, recognized as the brand leader. The options are nearly endless, and the ML McDonald installation team delivers flawless installations. Anything you dream of can likely be accomplished — we are able to help you plan, and we will build exactly what you and your clients prefer.

StretchWall allows architects and interior designers incredible flexibility and control when designing spaces with upholstered surfaces. Nearly any fabric can be incorporated into designs — there is a wide array of mounting systems and assemblies, including Classic StretchWall, SnapLoc (can contribute to LEED ratings) and 8000 Series. Each is presented in this brochure for your review, complete with technical data and specifications.

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Site Built Pre-Fabricated



Recommended Fabric Selection	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	A B C	B C	C
Lining Capability	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Components							
FR Plywood	●						
Plywood	●						
FR Hardwood			●			○	
Hardwood				○		○	
MDF				●		●	
PVC		●					
Fireflake						●	
Mineral Board						○	
Resin-edge Fiberglass							●
Infill Materials							
Fiberglass (Various Densities)	●	●	●	●		○	
Acousticotton	●	●	●	●			
Micore (Tack & Tack/Acoustic)	●	●	●	●			
Plywood (Nailable)	○	○	○	○			
Polyester Fiberfill		○					
SofTouch (Super Padded)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Fastening Systems							
Z Clips			●	●	●		●
Velcro			○	○		○	○
Magnets			○	○			○
Direct Mounting	●	●	●	○	○	●	○
Fabric Mounting							
Edge Tacked & Stapled	●		●	●	●	●	
Edge Crimped & Glued		●					
Edge Glued							○
Edge & Face Glued							●
System Thickness							
1/2"	●		●	●	○	●	○
5/8"	○	●	○	○	○	●	○
3/4"	●	○	●	●	○	●	●
1"	●	○	●	●	●		●
1"-2"	○	○	○	○	●		●
1/4" and up in 1/8" increments	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Edge Profiles							
Square	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1/2" Radius	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1" Radius	●		●	●	●		●
Beveled	●		●	●	●	●	●
Custom Edge	○		○	○	○		○
Test Results w/Class-A Fabrics							
Flame Spread	0-25	20	20	35	—	—	25
Smoke Development	15-25	400	65	180	—	—	55
Tolerances (± NIC Fabric)*	1/32"	1/32"	1/16"	1/16"	1/16"	1/16"	1/16"

Key
 ● Standard
 ○ Available Option

Recommended Fabric Selection

Fabrics are rated according to suitability. (Ratings appear along the first line of this chart.) These ratings are general in scope and intended as a guide only. Samples should be submitted to StretchWall Products for specific job application evaluation.

Group A

Very thick or heavy fabrics
 Very thin or shear silks
 Tafetta & satin weaves
 Velvet/velour High-rayon blends
 High-nylon blends
 100% viscose rayon
 Leather (pre-fab only)
 Unbalanced silks
 Woven geometrical and directional patterns

Group B

Upholstery-weight silks
 Non-directional designs
 Silk/cotton/rayon blends
 100%wool Twill weaves
 Balanced constructions

Group C

Standard panel fabrics
 Polyester Wool blends
 Stable non-directionals

Not Recommended

100% filament nylon
 Paper-backed fabrics
 Acrylic-backed for direct-glue application
 Vinyl (non-stretch, canvas-backed)

* Overall Thickness will vary by fabric. Tolerances shown do not include fabric variances

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What you need to know

There are a number of considerations when selecting fabric for your project. The following is offered regarding the recommendations, details and care for your installations.

Acoustic performance

One of the major attributes of StretchWall is the ability to improve and control acoustic performance. The key is to match fabric choices with the most appropriate assembly. Certain fabrics perform better than others, and in the following chart, their suitability is presented for analysis.

Practically any fabric can be specified. Acoustically transparent fabrics enhance high-performing sound absorption. However, some fabrics, such as latex-backed fabrics (they tend to reduce sound absorption), taffetas and certain silks do not perform as well.

Fabric care

Once your installation is complete, it is important that your fabric-covered walls are well maintained for many years. With regular and proper care, the walls can maintain fresh and new appearance; it is also important to understand where installations need special consideration — areas of high traffic, locations of HVAC grilles, frequent ‘touches’ (light switches, outlets, data ports), and similar conditions.

Our StretchWall Installations experts will help you select and specify the best solutions.

Seams matter

Matching the right fabric with the right StretchWall system is key. Sometimes seams need to appear nearly invisible, and sometimes they are integral to your design. Classic and SnapLoc systems allow designers to accentuate or minimize seams; wear and color must be considered. For 8000 Series panels, the joints between square-edge panels with a thin fabric tend to read monolithically.

Seams tend to disappear in vertically directional fabric. On the other hand, seams tend to appear as butt joints when the predominant direction of the fabric’s ‘grain’ is horizontal. With non-directionally patterned fabric, seams will be more noticeable with light-colored fabrics and less so with darker colors. Joints are seen more clearly between panels utilizing heavy or thick fabrics.

Can you tack and nail?

If tacking or nailing into the panel system is required, especially in meeting rooms or art galleries, heavily-textured or self-healing fabrics are recommended. Neutral-colored linen fabrics work especially well in galleries, as they won’t distract from artwork. Linen is a naturally hard-working fabric and is easily maintained for extended periods as a backdrop material. On the other hand, satins and sateen weaves are not recommended on walls where tacks or nails will be inserted; these materials may not respond well with such use.

Balanced and unbalanced fabrics

Balanced fabrics like jacquard, damask, and basket weaves — regardless of their yarn content — tend to be dimensionally stable and are desirable in areas where there may be wide variances in temperature and/or humidity.

Unbalanced fabrics like taffetas and architectural silks are likely to expand and contract greatly, especially when fireproofed. Due to this characteristic, they should only be installed in areas where temperature and/or humidity are stable. Avoid use in areas that are subject to environmental variances.

Light colors

If planning on light-colored fabrics (this is especially true of white materials), note that they must be approved by a StretchWall Installations authorized dealer. We need to assure that panel construction is not visible through the fabric, especially change of hue. If these possibilities are likely, we may need to line fabric; this will result in additional charges. And, if so, the color of the lining may change the hue of a fabric. Note that white or light colors are more likely to soil easily.

It’s easy to test a fabric by placing it over one light-colored surface and one over a dark-colored surface. Difference in the fabric color will be readily apparent; if there is no discernible difference in fabric color, you can assume that this will be true in the final installation. Nonetheless, we may recommend that mock-up panels be created to understand visual opacity.

Flameproofing (FR)

Some fabrics are inherently flame retardant, such as modacrylic fabrics like Verel, or the nylon fabric Dupont Dacron. Others may or may not lend themselves to the flameproofing process. Generally, natural fibers and many blends may be treated without affecting appearance. However, in some cases, prior testing is highly recommended. Nylon and polyester usually cannot be flameproofed to meet fire codes. Wherever flameproofing is required, a fabric should also be treated with a soil-resisting non-toxic substance, absent of PFOS, (perfluoro-octane sulfonates).

Fabric care

Fabric covered walls need special attention during planning, installation, and most importantly, after they are installed and in use. Simple precautions, regular maintenance and prompt attention to any blemishes, by professionals, will allow many years of service and outstanding finishes.

Dos and don't's

- Do make sure that all walls have been taped, spackled, and sealed to eliminate air leaks, especially where electrical outlets, thermostats and light fixtures are located.
- Do allow sufficient time during the installation to cure a fabric on site.
- Do place handles or push plates on fabric-covered doors where there is high activity.
- Do weather-strip fabric-covered doors at stairwells.
- Do remember that rounded outside corners (vs. square-edged corners) will remain much cleaner because they are subject to less abuse.
- Don’t install fabric-covered walls directly under or adjacent to air conditioning supply or return air grilles/slots.

Maintenance instructions for all fabric-covered panel systems

A regular maintenance program, initiated at the earliest possible time after installation, will go far toward preventing soil buildup and staining of a fabric surface. Frequent vacuuming and preventative maintenance is necessary when a fabric area is adjacent to air conditioning feeds or air return vents. Vacuum all walls monthly, using a standard vacuum cleaner with a head normally used to clean carpets and upholstery; don’t use a brush attachment except on pile fabrics.

For spots or stain removal, use a dry cleaner’s spotting brush. Never use a cleaning solvent until every effort has been made to brush or brush-and-steam out the spot or stain. If spots or stains cannot be removed, contact a professional cleaner who should attempt a cleaning with traditional solvents and steam.

If solvents are required, clean the entire wall – not just the soiled area. This will help with uniformity and will help avoid watermarks. After cleaning a spot on a wall, the nap sometimes lifts slightly. In many cases, shaving the fabric with an electric shaver will restore it.

If a cut or tear in the fabric occurs, lift free the entire wall, and hire a local tailor or weaver who repairs clothing to mend the cut or tear on site.

Technical assistance and service is available from a StretchWall Installations authorized dealer for proper maintenance of your fabric walls.