



SYNTHETIC TEXTILES

For many, when one hears the word “textiles,” clothing is the first thing that comes to mind. But for interior designers, fabrics play a massive role in the way that a room is going to come together and the mood that a room will emulate.

Typically, we find textiles in the finishing touches of a room. “I think of upholstery, drapery, wall coverings, synthetic and natural weaves,” Bridgehampton-based interior designer Roxane Mosleh tells us. “Textiles and their uses are endless.”

The finishing touches that textiles are used for are what tie the rooms of a home together, and they’re also conveniently some of the most replaceable pieces in interior design. Unlike the wallpaper that decorates a living room from floor to ceiling, fabric pieces are not as expensive nor as labor-intensive to replace, which means that homeowners can turn to their textiles to create a space that’s trendy and up-to-date without having to worry about the cost benefit that comes with choosing something that’s timeless. Homeowners can afford to choose design pieces that are contemporary, even if they know that it may go out of style in the foreseeable future.

But that doesn’t mean that textiles can’t be incorporated into the more permanent aspects of your home. “My favorite place for a synthetic textile is on wall coverings,” Mosleh tells us. “I love the use of commercial vinyl coverings from brands such as Koroseal as it allows for durability in design solutions.”

Like anything, choosing the right textile will depend on what the fabric is going to be used for. For the most part, synthetic fabrics are a viable option for pretty much anywhere in the home, but Mosleh tells us that natural fabrics are usually the best choice for places like nurseries and bedrooms for your little ones.

And for those that want to keep their pockets full, synthetic textiles are definitely the right way to go. “Synthetic textiles are very often priced better than natural fiber textiles as they are readily available,” the interior designer says. “The technology of synthetics have come a long way and many brands prefer blends of synthetic and natural fiber in their weaves.”

Simply put, a synthetic is any kind of fabric that’s manmade rather than originating in nature. So fabrics like polyester, spandex, rayon, and nylon are all synthetic,

while natural fabrics include cotton, linen, silk, wool, and even leather. Chances are, your wardrobe and home have a good mix of natural and synthetic fabrics alike, and probably some blends as well.

Mosleh is right when she says that synthetics have come a long way in the technology that has made them -- because synthetics can be manipulated in a way that natural fibers can’t, we’re able to have access to textiles that are catered to our lifestyles. Synthetic textiles can be stain resistant or waterproof, and are typically a lot more durable than its natural counterparts, which make them great options for things like upholstery and drapes, which are frequently employed in the home but not easy to wash and simply won’t be handled gently based on the sheer volume in which they’re used.

Another benefit? Bugs and insects that may come into your home aren’t going to want to chew away at the synthetic fabrics that decorate your living room like they would the natural fabrics, meaning your textiles will last longer, even if your home has an unfortunate infestation or if moths make their way inside during the summer months.

But that doesn’t mean that synthetic textiles don’t come with their fair share of disadvantages, though. According to Mosleh, “like anything, they may have properties that one might have allergies to.” They’re also typically more flammable than natural fibers, are more likely to be damaged in a hot washing machine, and they aren’t biodegradable. It’s always suggested that you look into the fabrics that you’re purchasing or get a second professional opinion before swiping your credit card.

But at the end of the day, choosing the right fabric will be an important part of decorating your home. Getting a high-quality textile is going to make a big difference. If you don’t know where to go with your options, your interior designer will be able to help you sort through the weeds. “Price varies for all textiles, regardless of the fiber content,” the Bridgehampton designer advises. “Very often, the weave of the textile is what determines the price point.”

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