



Museum Textile Services

Textile Condition Terms

Abrasion	Wearing away of the surface from scraping, rubbing, grinding or friction
Accretion	Deposit of extraneous material on the surface, such as mud or fly speck
Crease	Tightly pressed fold often causing threads to weaken and break
Crocking	Rubbing off of color resulting in loss of dyestuff but not loss of fiber
Cut/Tear	Clean break in the fabric
Deterioration	A general term for a weakened state caused by age, use, or environmental conditions
Discoloration	General change in the color of an area from the prevailing tone
Embrittlement	Decline in pliability and suppleness to the degree that damage may be imminent
Fading	Discoloration seen as change of color, often caused by light exposure
Fold	Pleat resulting from one part doubled or laid over another
Fraying	Raveled or worn spot indicated by the separation of threads, often found on edges
Hole	Area of missing fibers from both the warp and the weft
Insect damage	Holes, surface loss (grazing), or deposits (frass, silky fiber) caused by insects
Loss	General term for an area missing fibers
Mold/Mildew	Microbial activity, often seen as stains or surface growth, exacerbated by humidity
Oxidation	Chemical alteration caused by the presence of corroded iron in or adjacent to fiber
Particulates	Dust and other soil particles that accumulate on and within fibers
Shattered	Description for chemically treated silk that exhibits losses
Soot	General term for a dark and oily deposit caused by air pollution or fire
Stain	Soiled or discolored spot
Stiffness	Loss of flexibility and suppleness of fibers causing a resistance to bending
Unidirectional	Failure and loss of warp or weft, leaving behind more of one element than the other
Weak seam	Looseness in the attachment of two adjoining pieces of fabric