

Fabric Abrasion

At Luum, we believe design is most successful when the creative process is paired with a clear performance intent. According to the [Association for Contract Textiles \(ACT\)](#) “abrasion levels are often over specified in the faulty assumption that abrasion tests predict a product’s overall durability and lifespan.”

Luum has found multiple abrasion tests done on the same piece of fabric can yield a wide range of results, making them an unreliable indicator of fabric lifespan in some cases. ACT corroborates that testing results on the same fabric can and do vary significantly from test to test. For example, a variance of at least 60 percent was observed. Furthermore, Martindale and Wyzenbeek abrasion tests have no correlation. To access ACT’s white papers, click [here](#).

Luum follows ACT guidelines for high traffic woven contract fabrics: 30,000 double rubs Wyzenbeek method or 40,000 cycles Martindale method. Higher abrasion numbers do not necessarily indicate a significant extension of the fabric’s service life. In fact, test results exceeding the ACT high-traffic abrasion guideline have not been shown to be an indicator of increased fabric lifespan as they do not correlate well with the variables encountered by the end-user.

Other wear factors beyond abrasion, also stated by ACT such as cleaning, maintenance, physical abuse and inappropriate application, need to be contextualized on a project by project basis to guide user expectations when specifying fabrics.

For more information, see ACT’s guidance on how to create a successful textile specification by clicking [here](#).

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