

Top Five Benefits of Chemical Fabrics and Film

Why vinyl products perform well and look great in tough applications

July 1, 2024—Versatility is highly valued in virtually every product application, and chemical fabrics and film are among the most versatile of all. In difficult, demanding environments, their many forms stand up to all manners of harsh, repeated use and still look good. Chemical fabrics and film are the clear choice in many industries because of their outstanding resilience and appearance.

The [Chemical Fabrics and Film Association – Performance Products Division \(CFFA – PPD\)](#) represents manufacturers of PVC/vinyl polymer-based fabric and film products used in healthcare, foodservice, hotels, backyard pools, and many other industries. These vinyl products offer exceptional performance characteristics in finished products, from durable coated fabrics used for commercial upholstery to vinyl film used for in-ground swimming pool liners.

The top five benefits of chemical fabrics and film include ease of customization, aesthetics, performance, durability, and lasting value.



Customization. Durable coated fabrics can be manufactured in virtually any thickness, any texture, any pattern, and in almost any color of the rainbow. The versatility of the manufacturing processes creates innovative textures and patterns. For pools, the unmatched customization potential of vinyl, including size, shape, depth, and design, provides a level of freedom at an economical price not found in fiberglass pools.

Aesthetics. Vinyl offers great versatility and the chameleon-like ability to imitate almost any look. Simple compound modifications create simulations of leather or textiles and afford beautiful patterns, prints, and textures. Vinyl pools' aesthetic versatility surpasses that of fiberglass and gunite pools, offering a diverse range of colors and designs that match homeowner preferences.

Performance. Vinyl offers a durable surface impervious to moisture, making it ideal for marine environments, high-traffic commercial seating, and swimming pool liners. As a fabric, its knit back makes it easy to tailor and form rounded corners. Vinyl can also be thermoformed with four-way stretch fabrics to eliminate stitched seams that tend to harbor mold, mildew, and bacteria.

Durability. Stands up to abrasion, tough stains, exposure to sunlight, and daily wear and tear, while still performing consistently. This quality makes vinyl particularly well suited to healthcare environments, where ease of cleaning and sterilization are critical. Plus, vinyl's long service life conserves raw materials and prevents pollution associated with the manufacturing and disposal of shorter life alternatives.

Lasting value. When compared to other materials, vinyl products are not only typically lower in initial cost, they're also lower in lifecycle cost due to their durability and low maintenance requirements. The end result is a product that provides lasting value.

For more information on the CFFA-PPD, visit <https://www.cffaperformanceproducts.org/>.

About Chemical Fabrics and Film Association – Performance Products Division

The Chemical Fabrics and Film Association (CFFA) is an international trade association representing manufacturers of polymer-based fabric and film products, which are processed in sheet form and either attached to a fabric backing (to make chemical fabrics) or used without backing (to make chemical films). Members of CFFA who belong to the Performance Products Division manufacture chemical fabrics and film used in numerous applications, such as contract upholstery, swimming pool liners, and transportation interiors. Industries across the globe rely on these vinyl performance products for their durability, versatility, and lasting value to make an array of products better.

CFFA offers a self-certification program for manufacturers and sellers of coated fabrics for [healthcare](#) that meet CFFA's Minimum Performance Standards for Vinyl-Coated and other Chemical Coated Upholstery Fabrics (CFFA-HC-201). The association also offers a self-certification program for manufacturers of vinyl film used for [inground swimming pool liners](#) that meets CFFA's Recommended Minimum Performance Standards for Vinyl Swimming Pool Liners - In-Ground (CFFA-P-101).