

## How to choose a lab coat

**Polyester/Cotton Blend:** Flame Resistance: Burns readily. Limited testing indicates fabric will burn readily upon contact with pyrophoric chemicals, so poly/cotton coats must not be worn for handling such chemicals.

Splash/Chemical Resistance: May be fluid resistant. Check information from manufacturer.

Unknown chemical resistance. Anecdotally, better for work with acids than cotton.

Comfort: Lightweight breathable. The more cotton, the more breathable.

Notes: Most common material for clinical settings (hospitals, clinical labs) and labs handling biological materials and small amounts of flammables.

**100% Cotton:** Flame Resistance: No; burns less readily than poly/cotton blends, but still burns

Splash/Chemical Resistance: Not fluid resistant or fluid proof. Degraded by acids. Anecdotally, more resistant to solvents.

Comfort: Lightweight breathable

Notes: Good for labs where acid handling is limited and splash resistance is not a concern, and there is some work with flammables, heat and flame. Supplement with an apron for acid handling.

Link to a guidance document from MIT: <https://labcoats.mit.edu/guidance>