

Performance Days Showcases Latest In 3D Fabrics, Technical Structures, Insulation

During Performance Days from November 4-5, 2014, visitors will be able to see the latest innovative fabric trends for Winter 2016/17 in sports and work clothing. This season is all about technical structures, 3D fabrics, and the all new natural look. Plus, there is also a new table dedicated to the important highlight topic: Insulation.

New Trend: Insulation

Starting with the next trade fair, and joining the nine customary trend tables plus the Performance Wall where accessories are presented, is a tenth table dedicated to a major current topic. For Winter 2016/17, this special table will present the latest developments in the area of insulation. And rightly so, for ever since downs have been a matter for discussion, more and more quilted models with a "down" look have been produced - not with natural padding, but rather with a synthetic variant. Meanwhile, manufacturers have managed quite well to imitate the texture and loft of down. PrimaLoft, for example, introduces various options with its Gold and Silver series, including the especially noteworthy PrimaLoft MR (migration resistant). This migration-free insulation enables processing with diverse, non-down proof outer fabrics. Thermore produces Evo Down as an alternative to down and 3M Thinsulate presents a featherless down padding concept with amazingly high fill power.

Important fabric trends at a glance

Much has been happening from baselayer to outer layer. The topics 3D and structure are defining all layers of the functional clothing systems. From the airy mesh in the baselayer category to the softshells, the materials reflect a 3-dimensionality in every conceivable type - as jacquard, as embossed technique, as double-layer with spacer-system, or as special bonding. The fabrics appear more voluminous, but are light and have clean finishes; they offer protection while at the same being soft and warm, without being cumbersome. The robust spacer plays an important role - often as a three-dimensional mesh - even with the accessories.

Nature is another "hot" topic in the collections for Winter 2016/17. The desire for the natural look is implemented in many different variations. The natural colour tones, shades of brown, gray, and most of all, combinations all play a major role. These are realised in a brand new marled look, also as irregular horizontal stripes ("streaking") that creates vibrant structures. Natural fibres are gaining an ever greater role and are no longer limited to the bodywear sector. Merino wool can be found in the midlayers in countless mixtures, but just as likely in the softshells and 3layer laminates, and also as the outer fabric, although as the liner side. Similarly new and not less exciting are the cotton blends, which can be found even in the highly functional laminates. The top function has been given a velvety, matt surface with good texture and adequate grip. ■