



# High Performance Fabrics Using Nanocellulose



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## Abstract

Cellulose is the most abundant biopolymer material, which is extensively distributed in plants, marine animals such as tunicates, fungi, bacteria. Nowadays, nanocellulose such as cellulose nanofibrils (CNFs), cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs), and cellulose nanowiskers (CNWs) have come into the spotlight as reinforcing fillers within nanocomposites including reinforced textile due to its low cost, abundant, light-weight, renewability as well as nano-scale dimension. This article has focused on the employment of cellulose nanomaterials in the preparation high performance fabrics.

**Keywords:** Nanocellulose; Fabrics; Nanocomposites; Finished textiles; Reinforced textile

## Introduction

The investigation into nanocomposites has been currently undergoing rapid growth in interdisciplinary field including materials science, textile engineering, and biomaterials. Especially, many challenges of nanomaterials in textiles include nanocoated/finished textiles, nanocomposite textile fiber materials, nanofiber textiles, and nano-based non-wovens. In nanocomposite fields for nanocellulose in textiles, need to improve the properties of cloth or fabric materials have been increasing for durable and functional apparel manufactured in a sustainable manner [1-3].

Cellulose has been employed in the paper, biomedical fields, and researched as reinforcement for polymer nanocomposites for about 150 years [4]. Recently, numerous studies have focused on the isolation and production of nanocellulose such as cellulose nanofibrils (CNFs), cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs), and cellulose nanowiskers (CNWs) acting as a biobased alternative within synthetic resins [5]. These materials are natural, abundant, renewable, bio-degradable, high in strength and low in weight, making them attractive for developing bio-based, more sustainable product solutions. From these points, this new nanomaterials have been used in broad ranges for industry, which is including structural plastics, smart coatings, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, solar energy collection [6]. This chapter will focus primarily on studies about high performance fabrics using nanocellulose.

## Applications of nanocellulose for textile

The deficiencies of other materials have led to the development of nanomaterials for next-generation functional fabrics and electronic textiles [7]. Nanocellulose is a promising material for

producing low cost fully recyclable flexible paper electronic devices and systems due to desirable properties such as light weightness, stiffness, non-toxicity, transparency, low thermal expansion, gas impermeability and improved mechanical properties. Nanocellulose has been utilized to allow for controlled slow release functionalities of anti-microbials in hygiene textile products. Anti-microbial nanocellulose is under development for applications in wallpaper for hospitals; paper wipes; impregnated textiles; water filters; food packaging materials [8,9].

The use of nanomaterials in textiles can allow for enhanced stain repellence, reduce static, and improve electrical conductivity to fibers without compromising their comfort and flexibility. Cellulose nanofibers are more absorbent than superabsorbent polymers (SAPs) and biodegradable [10]. More specifically, this article will show a study about the nanocellulose treatment of fabrics.

## High performance fabrics

In these days, using of nanoparticles as fillers or cross-linking agent was focusing on improving cotton fabric. Cellulose nanowiskers (CNWs) is used most commonly to make such properties in remediation of some of the serious defects of easy care and permanent press cotton fabrics. Shaheen et al. [11] reported that new strategy for remediation of some of the serious defects of easy care and permanent press cotton and blend fabrics was suggested by virtue of using cellulose nanoparticles as reinforcement. And new conducting nanocellulose-based materials were shown through coating textile fabrics with conducting metals such as silver and copper nanoparticles was manufactured. The fabric samples were treated with CNW, CNW-PAAm copolymer, and NCEC (nano-

sized carbamoyl ethyl cellulose whiskers). Performance properties of reinforced fabrics encompassing roughness, stiffness, abrasion, crease recovery, tensile strength and elongation at break depicted that, a significant enhancement in all properties for cotton samples treated with any of the nanocellulosic used. In general, these properties increased by increasing nanocellulose concentration regardless of the nanocellulose used. Not only the treatment with nanocellulose increased the mechanical properties of cotton fabrics, but also the handle was to be softer and stronger than untreated fabrics [11]. Oikonomou et al. [12] suggests a method to evaluate cellulose-surfactant interactions with increased detection sensitivity. The method is based on the use of cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs), which are rod-shaped nanoparticles in the form of 200nm laths that are negatively charged and can be dispersed in bulk solutions. This technique developed could be exploited to rapidly assess the deposition efficiency of fabric conditioners on cotton by changing the amount and nature of chemicals in the formulations [12].

Also, BC (Bacterial cellulose) was used to restore vulnerable historic silk fabrics with degradable reinforcements by Wu et al. [13] the high crystallinity and elastic modulus of the abundant hydroxyl groups and BC formed good interfacial interaction between the BC and the silk matrix and improved the crystallinity, thermal stability and tensile strength of the restored samples. Therefore, the degradable, environmentally friendly, solvent-free material BC is a promising product for silk fabric restoration and other reinforcement applications [13]. Nanocellulose is similar in nature to cotton and is an attractive alternative to the synthetic polymers used today for canvas consolidation. Nechyporchuk et al. [5] showed different mechanical effect of cellulose nanofibrils (CNF), carboxymethylated cellulose nanofibrils (CCNF) and cellulose nanocrystals (CNC) as canvas consolidants. Nanocellulose has higher degree of crystallinity compared to canvas fibers, which may be a key towards long-term stability [5].

In addition, Chattopadhyay et al. [14] researched the effects of nanocellulose treatment on polyester fabric [14]. These nanoparticles have been applied to polyester fabric by padding technique and manifested the improved physical and thermal properties. The nanocellulose treatment also improved absorbency and enhanced the color strength of fabric dyed with direct dyes, which also improves the fastness towards soaping.

## Conclusion and Prospect

Owing to nanocellulose's versatility including abundance, outstanding mechanical properties, low weight, biocompatibility, biodegradability, it has been provided as promising materials for nanocomposites. Nowadays, nanocomposite materials of cellulose and polymers have received great attention. The interest in cellulose-based nanocomposite comes from lightweight, high strength as well as increased stiffness composite materials. The nanocomposites have constantly found different applications, such as materials science, hybrid materials, textile engineering,

surface engineering, and biomedical area. The rising adoption of nanocomposites has led to growth of demand for nanocellulose-based materials.

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