- SHOWTEX BUYER'S GUIDE -

STAGE CURTAINS FOR THEATRES

ShowTex

AMAZING STAGE FABRICS IN MOTION

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THIS THOROUGH GUIDE CONTAINS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEATRE OR STAGE CURTAINS

Looking for a flame-retardant stage or event fabric, but not sure where to begin? You can find our full range of flame-retardant textiles here.

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TYPES OF THEATRE CURTAINS

COTTON, POLYESTER AND MOHAIR STAGE CURTAINS ARE THE MOST TRADITIONAL FLAME-RETARDANT THEATRE DRAPES ON STAGE. MANUFACTURED AS LUXURIOUS FRONT CURTAINS, BORDERS, LEGS, VALANCES AND STAGE BACKDROPS, THEY SERVE A DECORATIVE PURPOSE ON STAGE WHILE IMPROVING LIGHTING AND SOUND CONDITIONS.

THEATRE CURTAINS FOR MASKING

Directing sound and light is essential on stage. A perfect theatre experience therefor requires framing the image right, so the performance can make the biggest impact possible.

VISUAL MASKING

Stage masking draperies are used at the side limits of the performing space to **conceal offstage areas and equipment from the audience's view.**

These so-called "borders" and "legs" of the theatre are made from **light masking fabrics** that partially or completely block atmospheric light in order to create a black box on stage. They also meet the most specific onstage demands for minimum light reflection.

Looking for a product overview? View our stage masking and blackout fabrics here.

SOUND MASKING

Apart from absorbing light, some theatre masking curtains **can also be used as acoustic drapes.**

Engineered for maximum sound dampening and low reverberation levels, these acoustic stage curtains should be heavy-weight and porous, in order to improve sound quality within a venue.

You can view all ShowTex acoustic solutions for theatres, or read our definitive guide to acoustic fabrics if you want to learn more about acoustic drapes in general.

LAYERED CURTAIN FOR AUDITORIUM CURTAIN KACWC BY PETRA BLAISSE - SAUDI ARABIA

THEATRE BACKDROPS

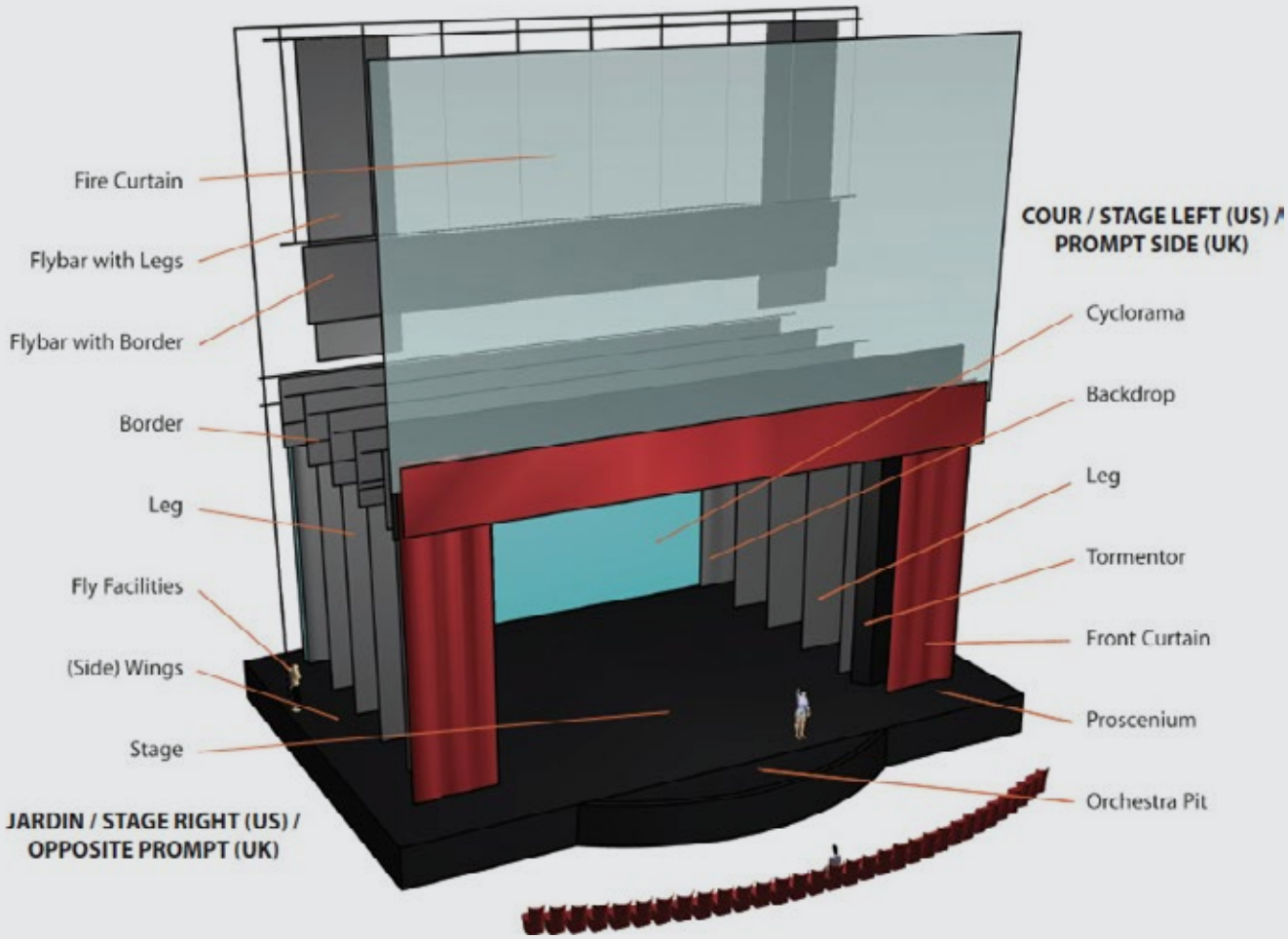
Backdrops are theatre curtains that **hang in the back of the stage** and can be used for projection or lighting effects. Often, they are made from canvas and printed or painted with custom artwork to create theatrical scenery.

A standard theatrical backdrop can set the perfect tone when painted or printed with custom artwork, but it can just as well be plain black to create a full black box or infinity curtain on stage.
Set designers use these flame-retardant backdrop drapes to simulate a very specific setting or mood.

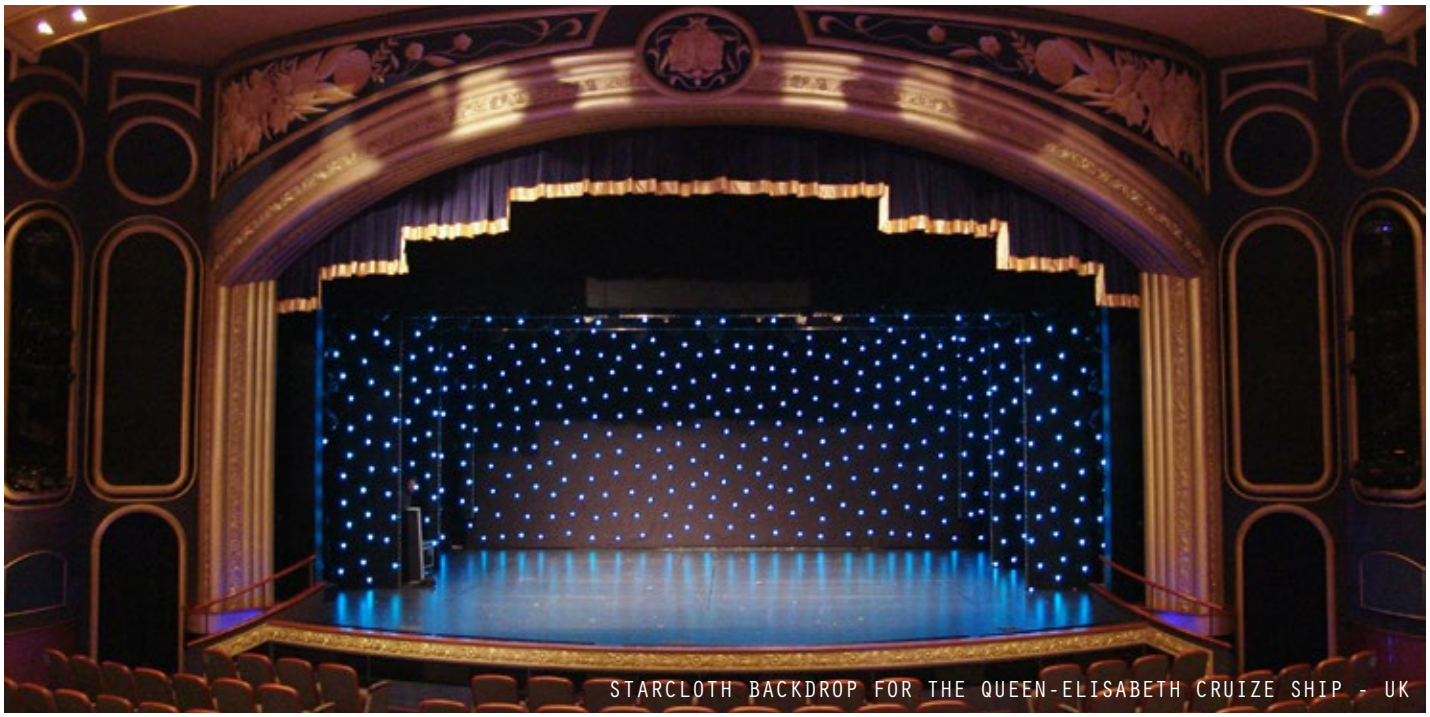
Traditionally, canvas backdrops were painted with photographic scenes to create the illusion of another reality on stage. Some of these classic hand-painted backdrops are very well preserved and in mint condition.

PROSCENIUM CURTAINS

The most famous and visible theatre curtain is, of course, the front-of-house or main curtain. Traditionally made from flame-retardant velvet, it is **the visual barrier between the theatre stage and the audience** before the show begins.



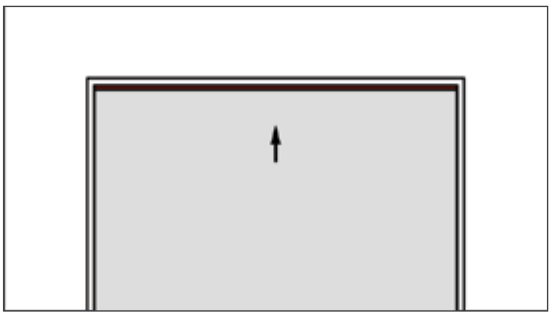
MASKING CURTAINS FOR DE STOEP THEATRE BY BEN VAN BERKEL @ UNSTUDIO - NETHERLANDS



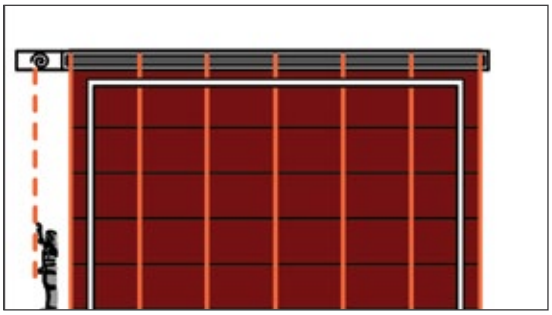
STARCLOTH BACKDROP FOR THE QUEEN-ELISABETH CRUIZE SHIP - UK

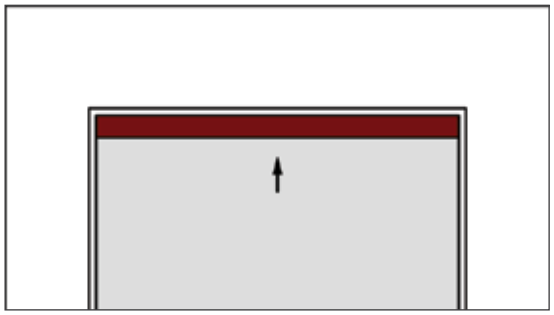
DIFFERENT TYPES OF THEATRE CURTAIN OPENINGS

HOLLAND BLIND

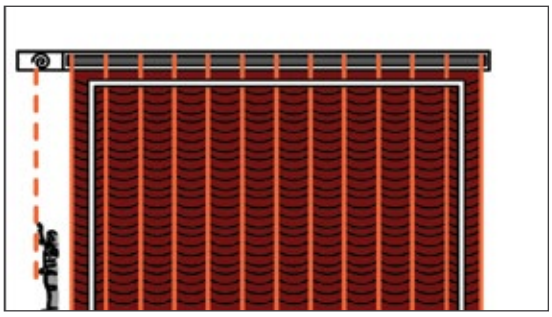


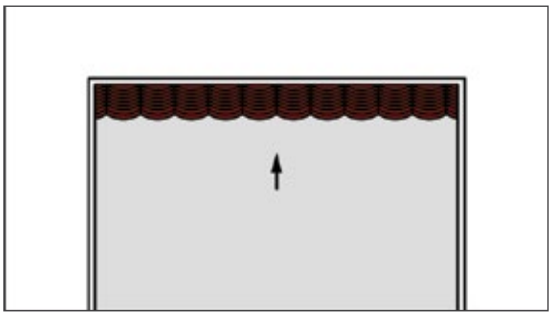
ROMAN BLIND



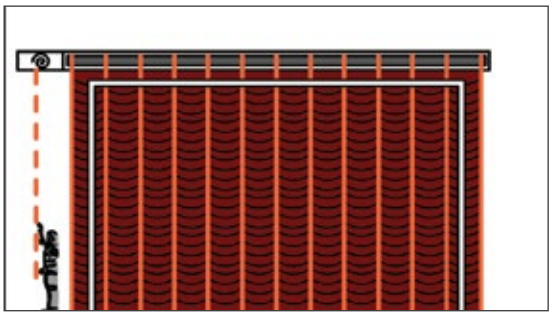


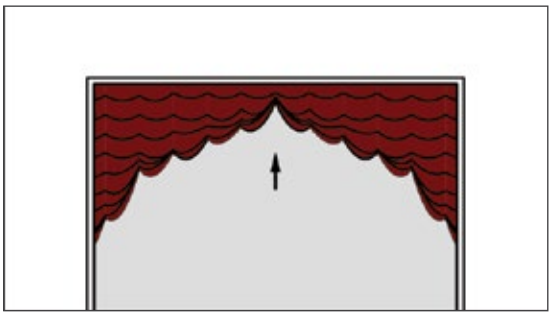
FESTOON CURTAIN VENETIAN OPENING



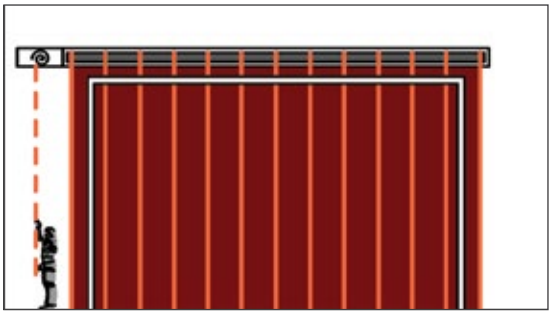


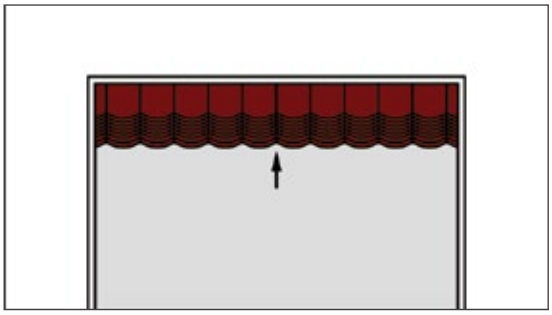
FESTOON CURTAIN AUSTRIAN OPENING





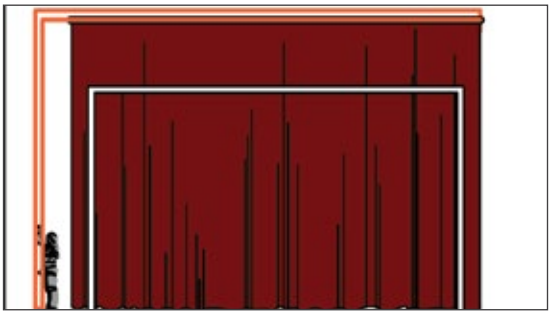
VENETIAN CURTAIN VENETIAN OPENING

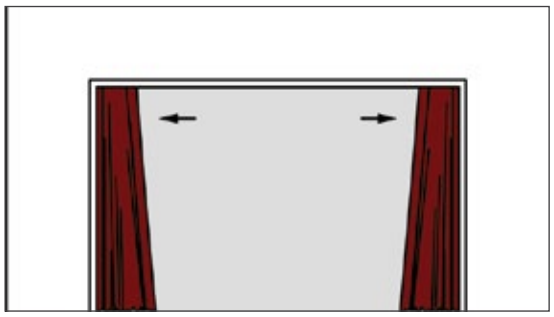




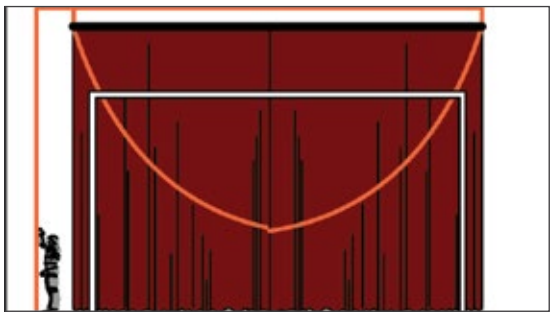
STRETCHVELOURS FOR KALTHOUMIYAT, THE RUINS - KUWAIT © SHEIKH JABER AL-AHMAD CULTURAL CENTRE

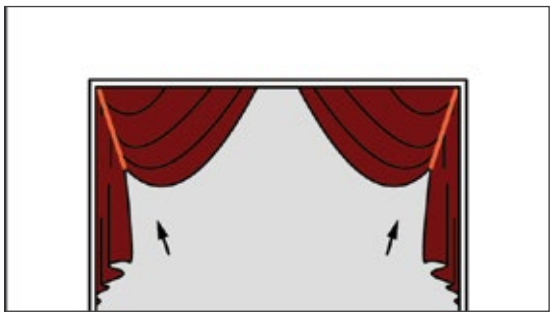
TRAVELLER CURTAIN GREEK OPENING

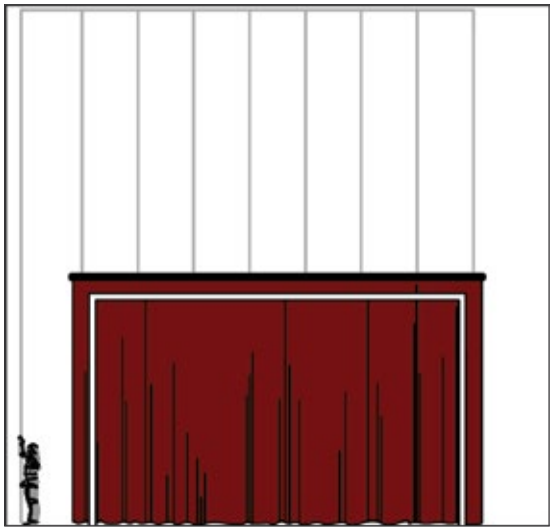


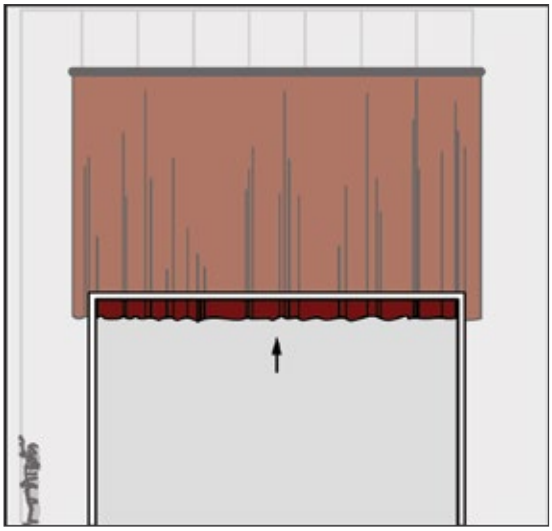


SWAG CURTAIN ITALIAN OPENING

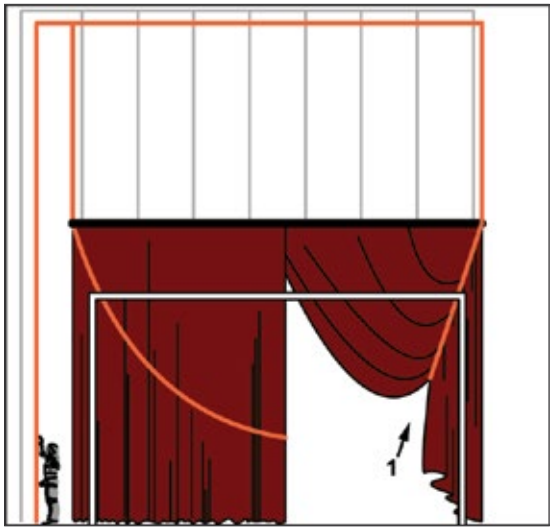


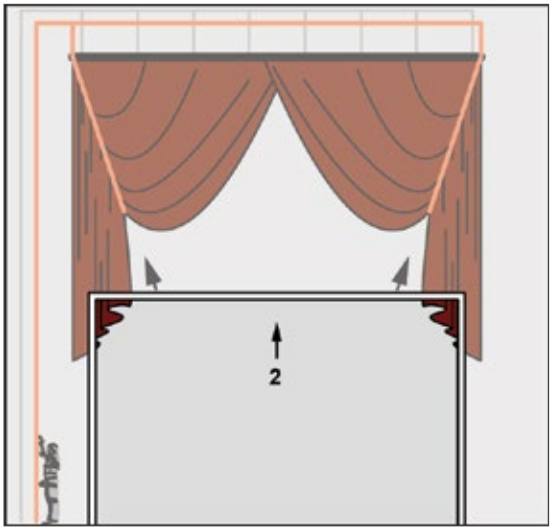




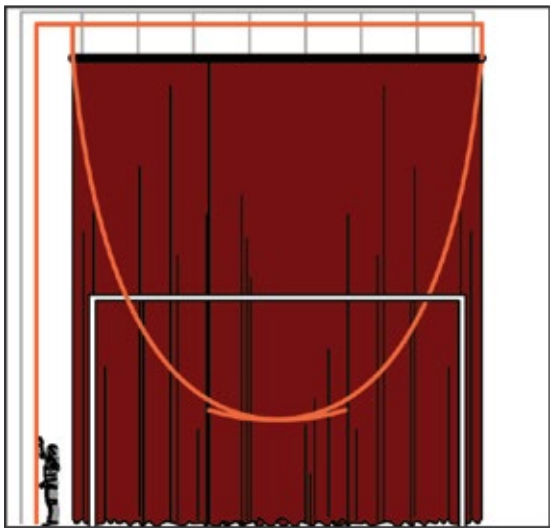


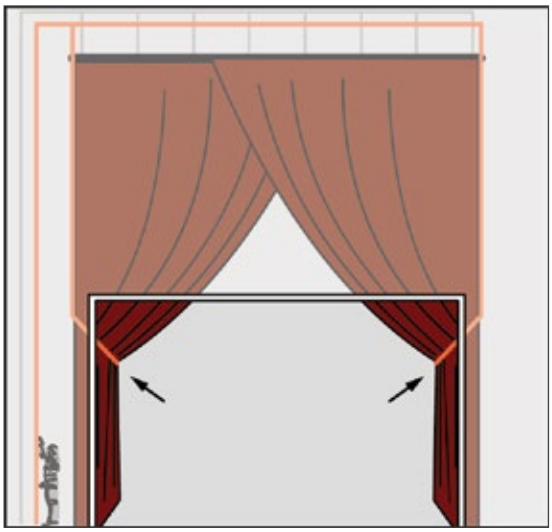
FLY CURTAIN
GUILLOTINE
GERMAN OPENING





SWAG & FLY CURTAIN
FRENCH OPENING





WAGNER CURTAIN
BAYREUTH OPENING

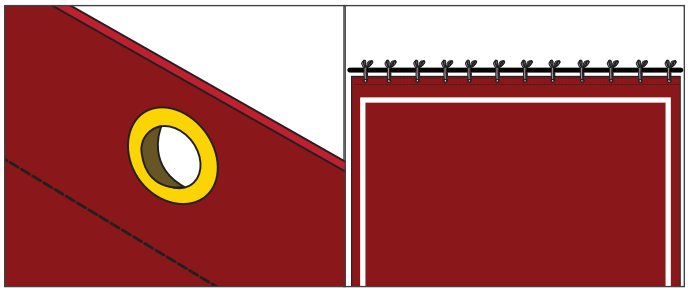
CURTAIN FULLNESS & PLEATS

THEATRE CURTAINS CAN BE SEWN FLAT OR WITH PLEATS FOR MORE FULLNESS. PLEATING IS COMMONLY USED TO INCREASE OPACITY, LIGHT AND SOUND ABSORPTION, OR TO ADD MORE DEPTH TO THE DRAPE.

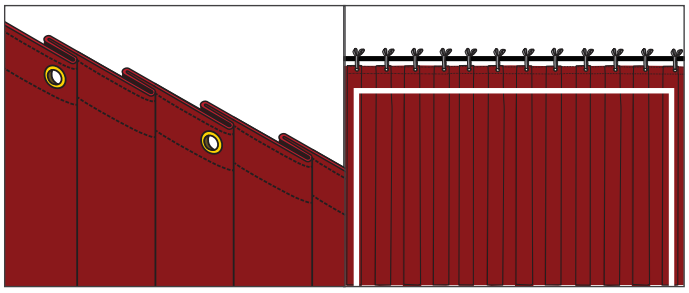
CURTAINS CAN BE PLEATED ACCORDING TO THE FABRIC, APPLICATION, AND DIMENSIONS OF THE CURTAIN.

- For 100% fullness, account for twice the amount of fabric used for a flat curtain.
- For 50% fullness, account for 1.5 the amount of fabric used.

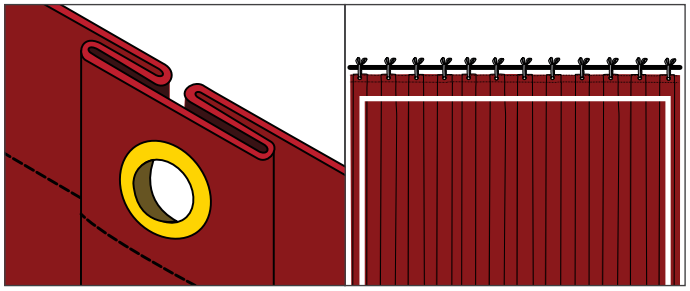
There are several different types of pleats possible, depending on the look and feel you desire:



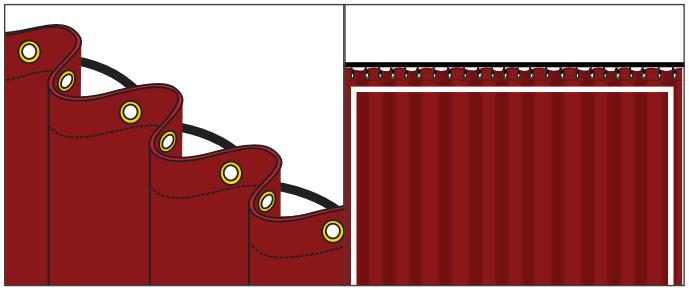
FLAT CURTAIN



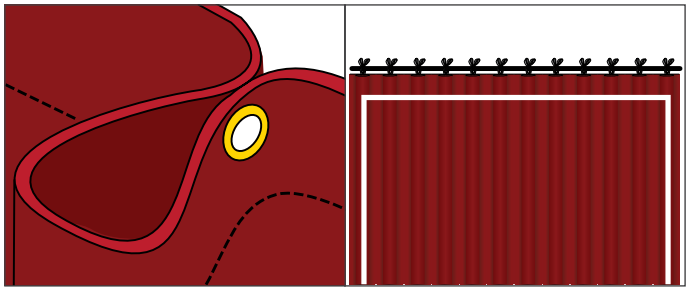
KNIFE PLEAT



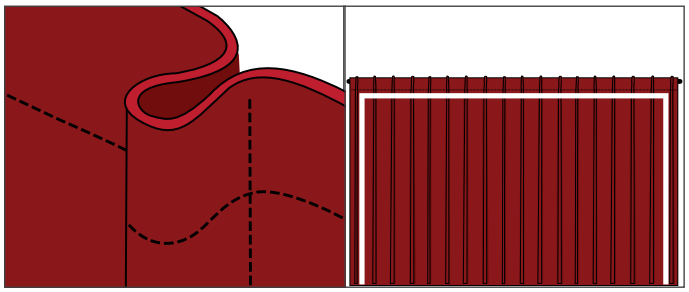
FULL BOX PLEAT



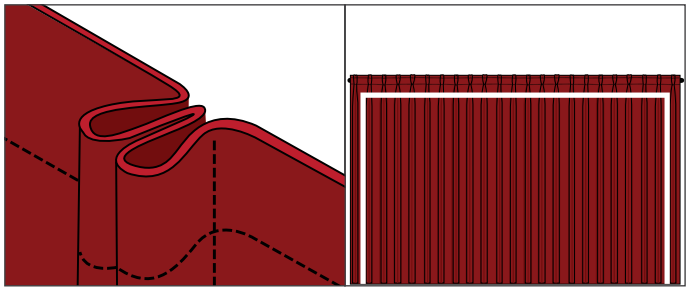
WAVE PLEAT



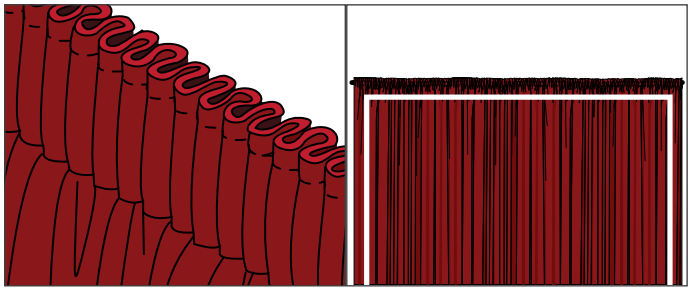
TIED IN FULLNESS PLEATS



PINCH PLEAT



BUTTERFLY PLEAT

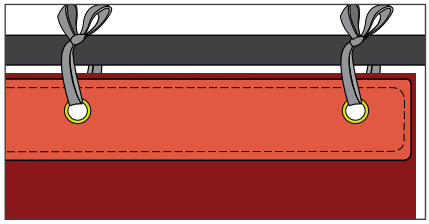


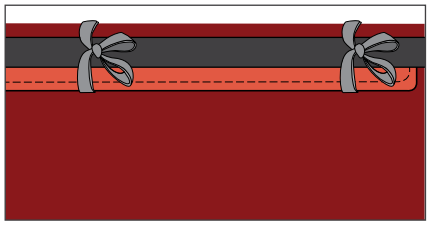
SHIRRED PLEAT

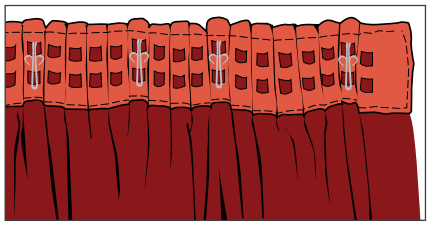
*When in doubt, **just ask**. We are always happy to help.*

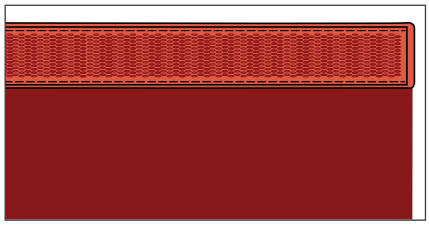
DIFFERENT TYPES OF CURTAIN FINISHES

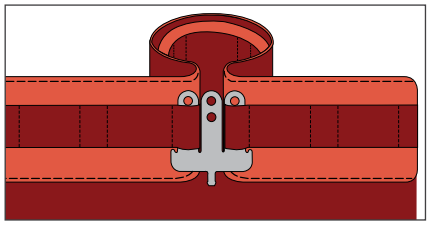
TOP FINISHES


WEBBING, GROMMETS & TIES

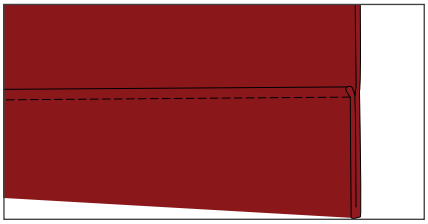

HIDDEN SEWN TIES

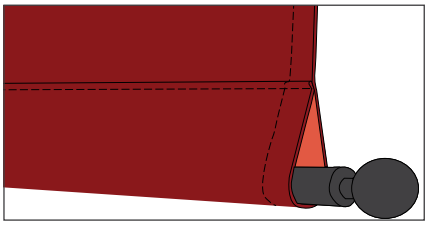

PLEAT TAPE WITH HOOKS

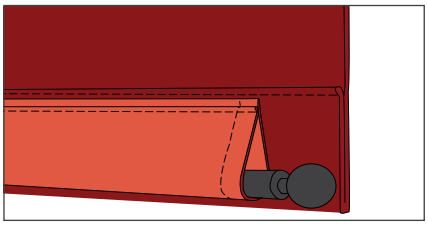

HOOK & LOOP FASTENER

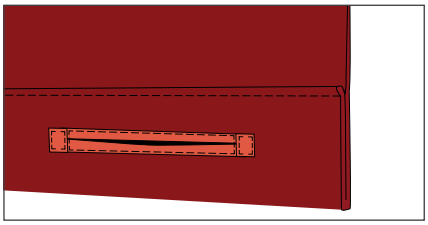

MULTIWEBBING

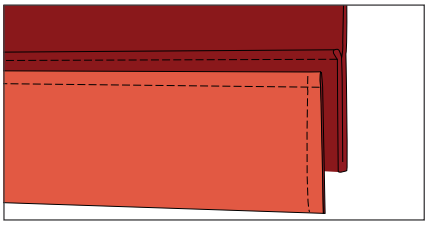
BOTTOM FINISHES


FLAT HEM

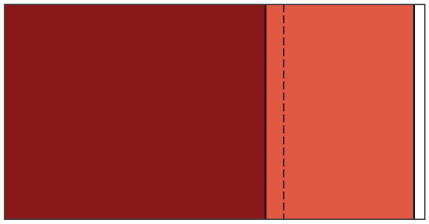

OPEN HEM

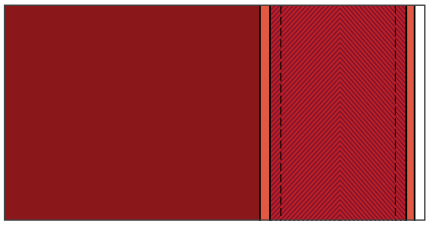

OPEN HEM WITH TAIL POCKET

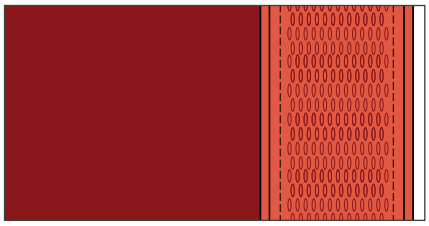

BUTTON HOLE


SKIRT

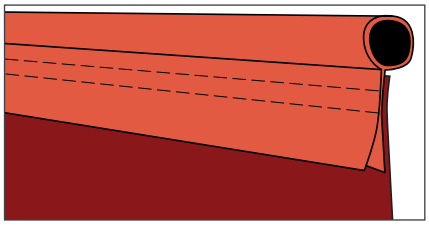
SIDE FINISHES

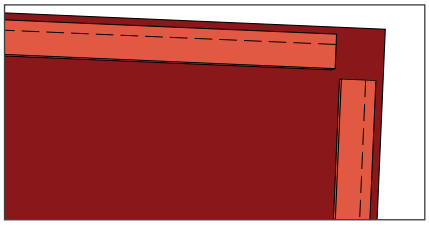

HEMMED

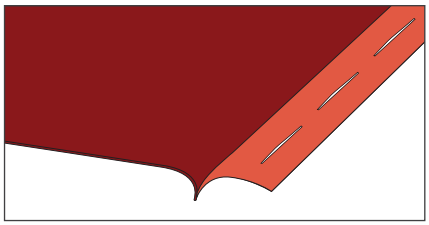

WEBBING OR ELASTIC BAND


HOOK & LOOP FASTENER

LOCKED


KEDER BAND


RUBBER STRIP


BUTTON HOLE ELASTIC

PACKAGING & STORAGE

As part of its constant search for optimizing the process of packaging, handling, storage and transport, ShowTex developed its own range of ultra-strong & branded packaging boxes!

ShowTex curtains and fabrics are also packed in reusable PP bags. The bag's durable polypropylene material allows for air circulation to create the best possible storage environment for your curtains. Note that these bags are not waterproof. Choose from 9 colour coded sizes.

SHOWTEX THEATRE
CURTAINS OVERVIEW

RANGE	QUALITY	COMPOSITION	WEIGHT	WIDTH
COTTON VELVETS	VELOURS PUCCINI	COTTON	360 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS VERDI	COTTON	525 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS BELLINI	COTTON	605 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS HAMLET	COTTON	450 g/m²	150 cm
POLYESTER VELVETS	VELOURS HELENA CS	TREVIRA CS	380 g/m²	145 cm
	VELOURS GARNIER CS	TREVIRA CS	450 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS PARIS CS	TREVIRA CS	500 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS ZEUS CS	TREVIRA CS	620 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS TRANSSONIC CS	TREVIRA CS	330 g/m²	160 cm
	VELOURS DELTA CS	IFR POLYESTER	460 g/m²	210 cm
	SOUNDVELOURS	FLOCKED POLYESTER	750 g/m²	155 cm
	STRETCHVELOURS	ELASTIC POLYESTER	270 g/m²	160 cm
MOHAIR VELVETS	VELOURS GAUDI	MOHAIR	575 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS PALLADIO	MOHAIR	770 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS MACKINTOSH	MOHAIR	470 g/m²	140 cm
	VELOURS LE CORBUSIER	MOHAIR	565 g/m²	140 cm

THE SHOWTEX COTTON VELVETS

The traditional cotton theatre velvets feature a directional-pile and a striking **matte finish**.

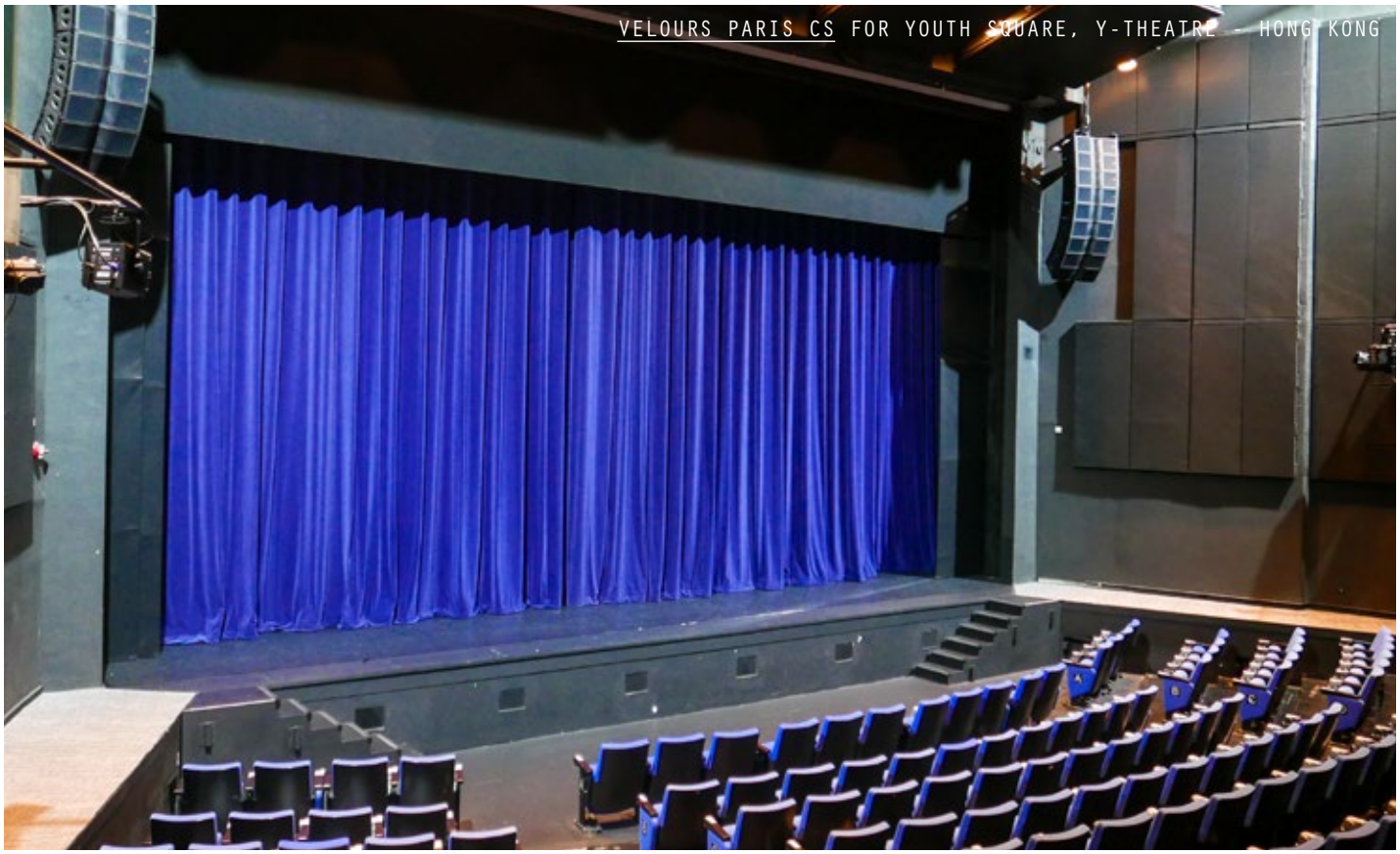
Choose one of the stylish colours of the velours Puccini, Verdi and Bellini, or discover the budget range of 100% cotton velvets, including the medium-weight Velours Hamlet.

VELOURS VERDI

VELOURS PUCCINI

VELOURS HAMLET

VELOURS BELLINI



VELOURS PARIS CS FOR YOUTH SQUARE, Y-THEATRE - HONG KONG

VELOURS PUCCINI FOR OPÉRA ROYAL DE WALLONIE - BELGIUM © LORRAINE WAUTERS

VELOURS PARIS CS & VELOURS HELENA CS FOR OPÉRA ROYAL DE WALLONIE - BELGIUM

THE SHOWTEX POLYESTER VELVETS

While cotton velours are chemically treated to make them flame-retardant (FR), IFR polyester velvets are **produced using materials that are inherently and permanently flame-resistant.**

These stage velvets are ultra-low maintenance and more resistant to moisture or wrinkling than any other kind of theatre velvet. This makes them **more suited for touring than cotton stage velvets**.

The velours Helena CS, Garnier CS, Paris CS and the extra heavy-weight Zeus CS feature an upright pile and light satin sheen, while the cost-effective Velours Delta CS stage velvets are extra-wide and guarantee a more matte, deep black colour thanks to their short pile.

VELOURS HELENA CS

VELOURS PARIS CS

VELOURS DELTA CS

VELOURS GARNIER CS

VELOURS ZEUS CS

WHAT IS TREVIRA CS?

Research into the causes of fire shows that unsuitable textiles can contribute considerably towards a fire spreading. National and international standards regulate protection against fire. Flame retardant **Trevira CS textiles** meet the important international standards on fire safety, because they **consist of fibres and yarns with "built-in safety".**

Today Trevira CS materials, however, are not being used the world over solely because of regulations on preventative fire safety, but also in contexts where it is only the design of the textiles that counts.

Constantly undergoing further development, **Trevira fibre** and filament technology **enables fabric manufacturers to continue introducing innovative products** onto the market.

The materials impress with their fresh effects, special structures and pleasant handle. As a result, Trevira fibres and yarns constitute not only the basis for the functionality of the textiles.

ShowTex is a proud and loyal member of the Trevira CS Club, which works intensively with all customers and partners along the textile supply chain in order to secure and extend the success of the Trevira CS brand in the long term.

View all our Trevira CS products here.

THE SHOWTEX MOHAIR VELVETS

Mohair stage velvets offer the most luxurious main house theatre curtains with maximum endurance and sustainability. The heavy-weight Velours Gaudi and the even heavier Velours Palladio theatre drapes are extremely durable and have a long upright satin pile, good acoustic qualities and excellent colour clarity.

Take it one step further and give your Mohair theatre drapes their very own character by adorning them with your personal designs or patterns. Logos or custom designs can be woven right into our Velours Mackintosh, while our Velours Le Corbusier can be embossed with historic pressed velvet patterns.

VELOURS GAUDI

VELOURS PALLADIO

VELOURS MACKINTOSH

VELOURS LE CORBUSIER

VELOURS GAUDI FOR DELAMAR THEATRE BY ACCA TEAM OF ARCHITECTS - NETHERLANDS

WHAT DETERMINES THE PRICE OF YOUR THEATRE DRAPE?

As theatre curtains must be fully adapted to the needs of the venue, every one of them is different. There are many factors that determine the price of stage curtains and masking drapes, but the **type of fabric**, the **finishing of the drape** and **the amount of material** are key.

It goes without saying that an extra-thick and **luxurious velvet** has a different price tag compared to a **budget-friendly Molton** drape.

But of course, in the wide range of ShowTex, you will find affordable velvet theatre curtains as well.

The total size of the stage drape will also influence the price significantly. However, together we will always look for the perfect balance between the looks of your curtain, its desired blackout and/or **acoustic properties** and your budget.

FIRE-RATED THEATRE CURTAIN

DRAPERIES AND TEXTILES USED IN PUBLIC VENUES LIKE THEATRES AND AUDITORIUMS ARE REQUIRED BY LOCAL LEGISLATION TO MEET SPECIFIC FLAME-RETARDANT STANDARDS. AS THESE STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS VARY BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND REGIONALLY, SHOWTEX CONDUCTS A VARIETY OF TESTS ON ALL ITS FABRICS TO PROVIDE WORLDWIDE CUSTOMERS WITH THE MOST ADVANCED FLAME-RETARDANT THEATRE FABRICS.

FLAME RETARDANT STANDARDS

IN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA, THE MOST ACCEPTED STANDARDS IN THE INDUSTRY ARE THE FRENCH, GERMAN AND BRITISH STANDARDS. RECENTLY, ALSO THE EUROPEAN EN 13773 STANDARD FOR CURTAINS IS BECOMING MORE COMMON. IN THE US, NFPA 701 IS ACCEPTED IN ALMOST ALL STATES. AND IN MOST OF ASIA, THE EU STANDARDS ARE COMMON, COMBINED WITH THE CHINESE STANDARD.

Although standards and testing procedures differ for each country and are difficult to compare, the industry has formed an unofficial consensus about their ranking. This ranking only reflects the difficulty level of passing a specific test, without categorizing the value of the test itself. **Our research and development department applies for multiple tests for each fabric, based on their expertise of the tests available.**

You can find an overview of the most used FR standards here.

SHOWTEX FABRICS ARE FR WITH CERTIFICATE

Due to the changing nature of safety requirements and industry standards, the Flame Retardant Standard certification of all our fabrics is subject to change.

Fabric components affected by REACH guidelines are also subject to change. REACH is a new European Community Regulation on chemicals and their safe use (EC 1907/2006). It deals with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical substances.

CUSTOM DYED MAIN CURTAIN FOR DE STOEP BY UNSTUDIO - NETHERLANDS © PETER GUENZEL

FR

FLAME RETARDANT

Fabric has been topically treated in an immersion process with a chemical fire retardant after the fabric has been woven.

Because the treatment is topical, it will wear out in time, and repeated cleanings will cause the flame retardancy to dissolve sooner.

Most flameproofing chemicals are water soluble and will also dissipate through dry cleaning. Draperies made from FR fabrics should be re-tested periodically for flame retardancy, as retreatment may be required.

IFR

INHERENTLY FLAME RETARDANT

This type of fabric is woven from fibres that are noncombustible for the life of the fabric. For this reason the fire retardancy of IFR fabrics will last for the life of the fabric or curtain and not dissipate after cleaning.

Our IFR Polyester and Trevira CS textiles consist of these fibres and yarns with "built-in safety".

NFR

NOT FLAME RETARDANT

The fabric has not been tested or has not passed any test. Some of these fabrics can be sprayed with an FR Product to reduce flammability.

Some may be accepted in smaller quantities or for specific applications. Check with local legislation.

HAVE A GREAT SHOW!

MORE INFO ON WWW.SHOWTEX.COM