



This graphic represents a world-class paper machine and highlights the paper machine clothing (Forming Fabrics, green; Press Fabrics, blue; Dryer Fabrics, red; and Process Belts, orange) used in the process of making virtually every grade of paper. These custom-engineered fabrics and belts are the products of Albany International.

how our products help to make paper

FORMING: A sheet of paper begins in the forming section, where a mixture of 99% water and 1% cellulose fiber is introduced evenly across a forming fabric, which acts as both a sheet conveyor and a dewatering device. It is here that the paper sheet is formed and the initial water removal occurs. As the fabric moves, water drains through it, while the fibers and fillers that form the sheet remain on top. Today, forming fabrics have an average operating life of 45 to 60 days. Multilayer technology offered by Albany International is the standard today on world-class high-speed machines.

PRESSING: In the press, additional water is mechanically removed from the newly formed sheet. In the simplest press, the sheet is carried continuously by a large press fabric between two rolls, where water is squeezed out of the sheet at high pressure. Average operating life of a press fabric is 40 to 50 days. Albany International's innovation in seam fabrics, multiaxial constructions, and advanced materials provides exceptional benefits for our customers.

DRYING: In the dryer section, the paper sheet travels around large-diameter heated cylinders, where the balance of the water is removed by evaporation. Dryer fabrics hold the sheet tightly in contact with the cylinders through the dryer section. Constructed of monofilaments, dryer fabrics must be heat resistant, rugged, and designed for both drying efficiency and runnability. Dryer fabrics last much longer than forming and pressing fabrics—from 6 to 18 months. Albany International leads the industry in the design and application of dryer products, including the pin seam, active air handling, and heat-resistant fabrics.

PROCESS BELTS: In the press section of today's new and rebuilt paper machines, a shoe press has replaced the conventional press. The shoe press increases dryness and enhances sheet properties by lengthening the time the sheet is under pressure. In response to the demand for improved water removal at higher speeds, Albany International developed the first shoe press belt, a grooved belt that provides maximum water removal, and a product to overcome the problem of sheet handling in open draws. Additional new belt products have been developed with machine builders to produce better sheet surface characteristics.