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(54) **Durable, comfortable, air-permeable allergen-barrier fabrics**

(57) An allergen-barrier fabric includes a tightly-constructed fabric substrate, woven from 65 to 100% continuous synthetic filament yarns. The fabric substrate is finished to produce a fabric with a mean pore size of 4 to 10 microns, an air permeability of 0.5 - 25 cfm, a mean fabric flexibility of 0.5 to 6.5 grams (bending resistance), and a moisture vapor permeability in excess of 800 g/m<sup>2</sup>/24 hours. This fabric provides a barrier to mite-induced allergen particles. In a preferred embodiment, the fabric has a maximum pore size of 10 microns. Various additional finishes can be included on the fabric. For example, an antimicrobial finish may be provided on the fabric to extend fabric wearlife by providing protection against mold and mildew. As another alternative, a fluorochemical finish can be provided to extend fabric wearlife by providing protection against fluid stains.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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